

Abandoned Mine Methane Mitigation in the United States

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Abstract : The US coal mining sector accounts for 6% of total US Methane emissions (2021). 60% of US coal mining methane emissions come from active underground mine ventilation systems. Abandoned mines contribute about 13% of methane emissions from coal mining. While there are thousands of abandoned underground coal mines in the US, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that fewer than 100 have sufficient methane resources for viable methane recovery and use projects. Many abandoned mines are in remote areas far from potential energy customers and may be flooded, further complicating methane recovery. Because these mines are no longer active, recovery projects can be simpler to implement.

Keywords : abandoned mines, coal mine methane, coal mining, methane emissions, methane mitigation, recovery and use

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