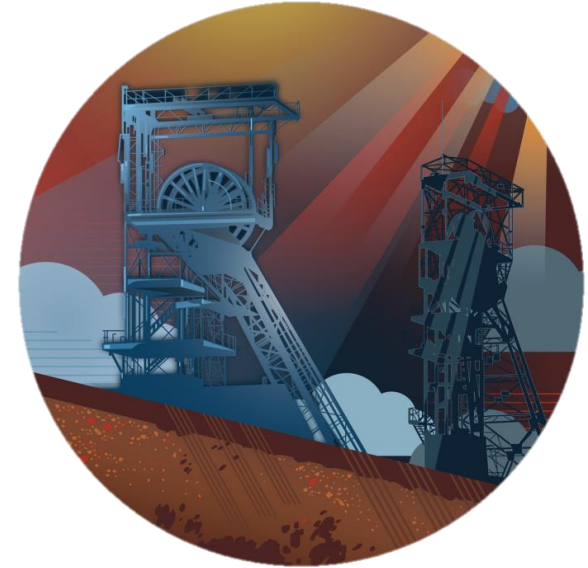


# LONG REACH DIRECTIONAL DRILLING TECHNOLOGY – an effective way of gas drainage and mitigation of GHG emission: case study of *Murcki-Staszic Hard Coal Mine*



**DD-MET**



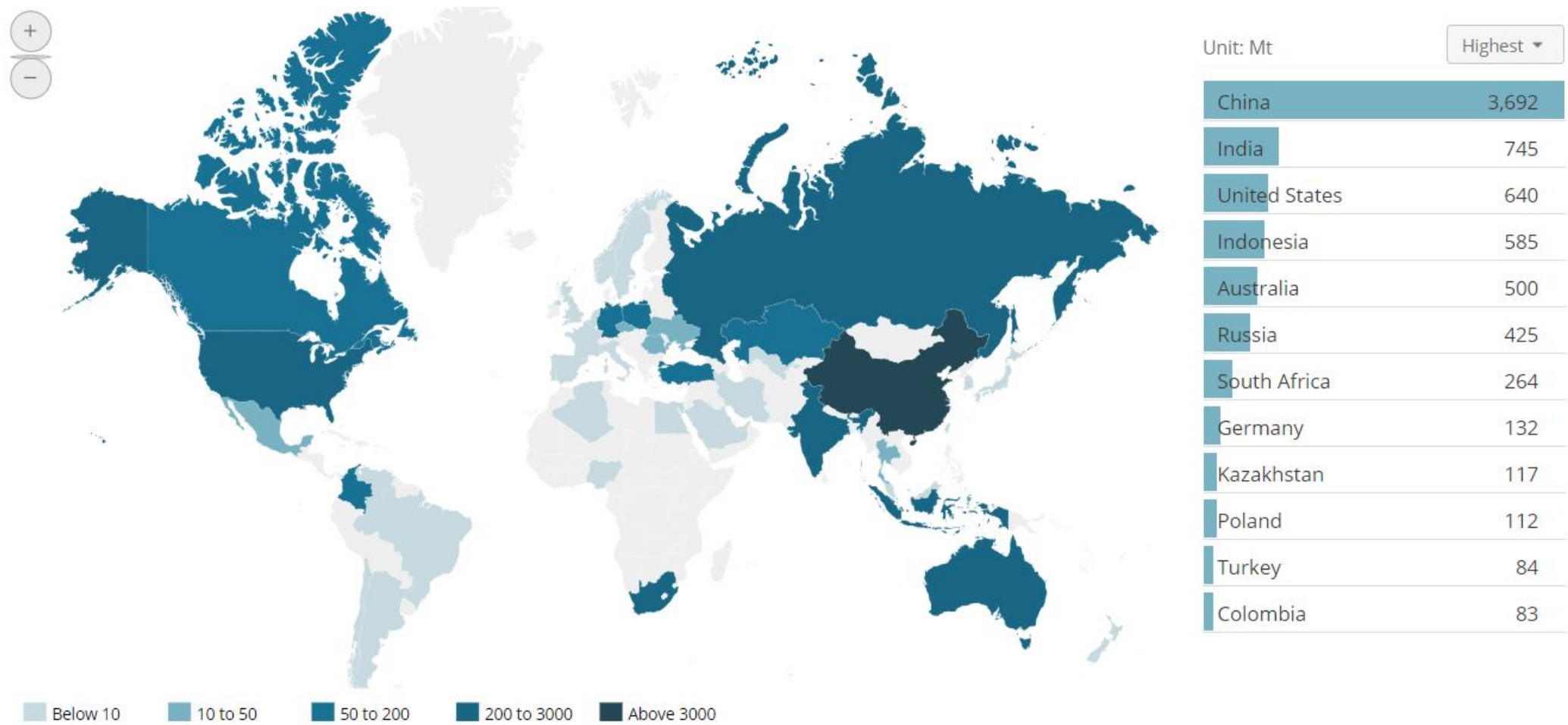
Energy, Fuels, Environment 2020

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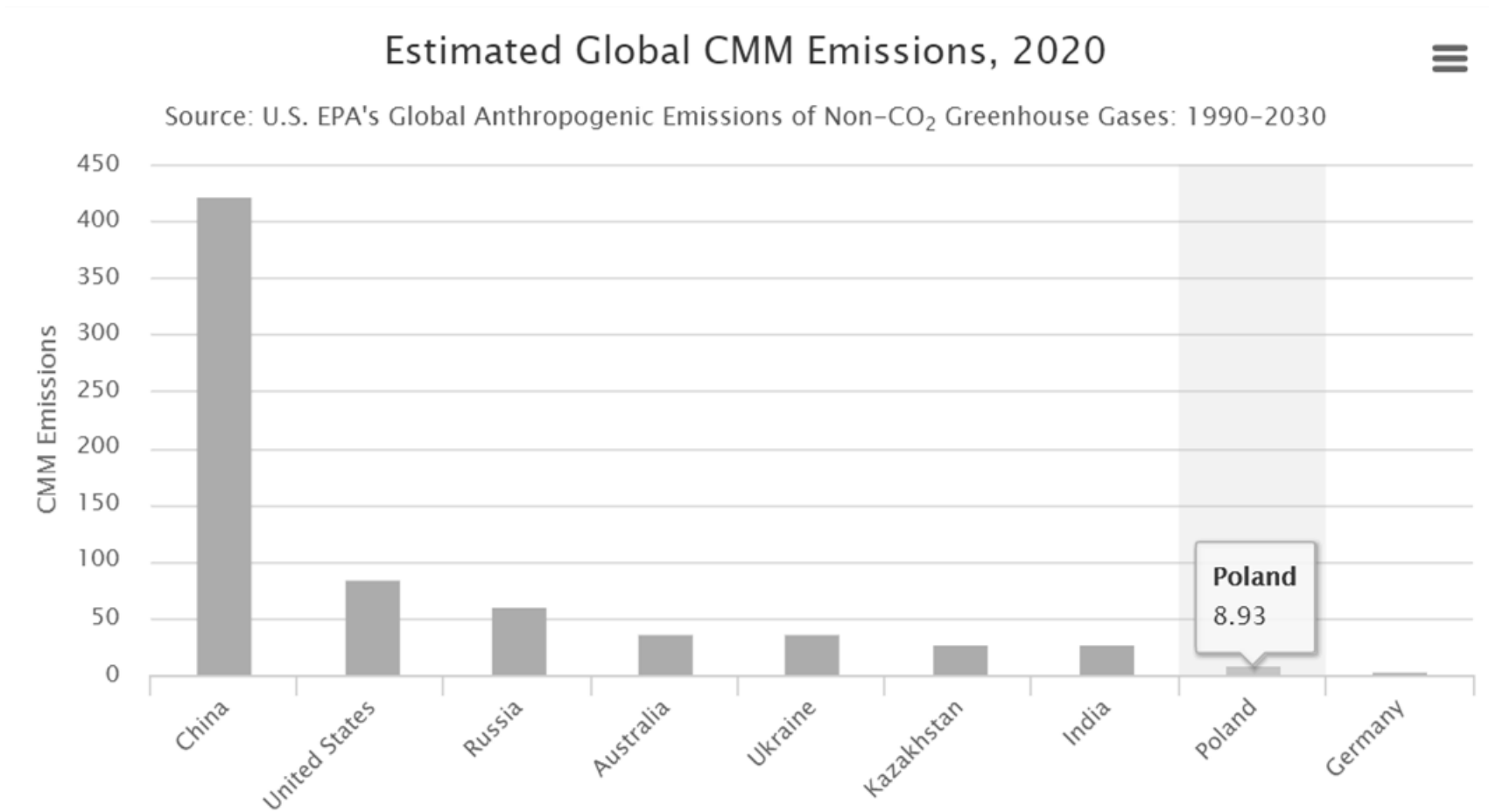
Grzegorz Plonka,  
Roman Garula,  
Radosław Surma

# COAL PRODUCTION in selected countries



\*Source: <https://yearbook.enerdata.net/coal-lignite/coal-production-data.html>

# GLOBAL CMM EMISSIONS

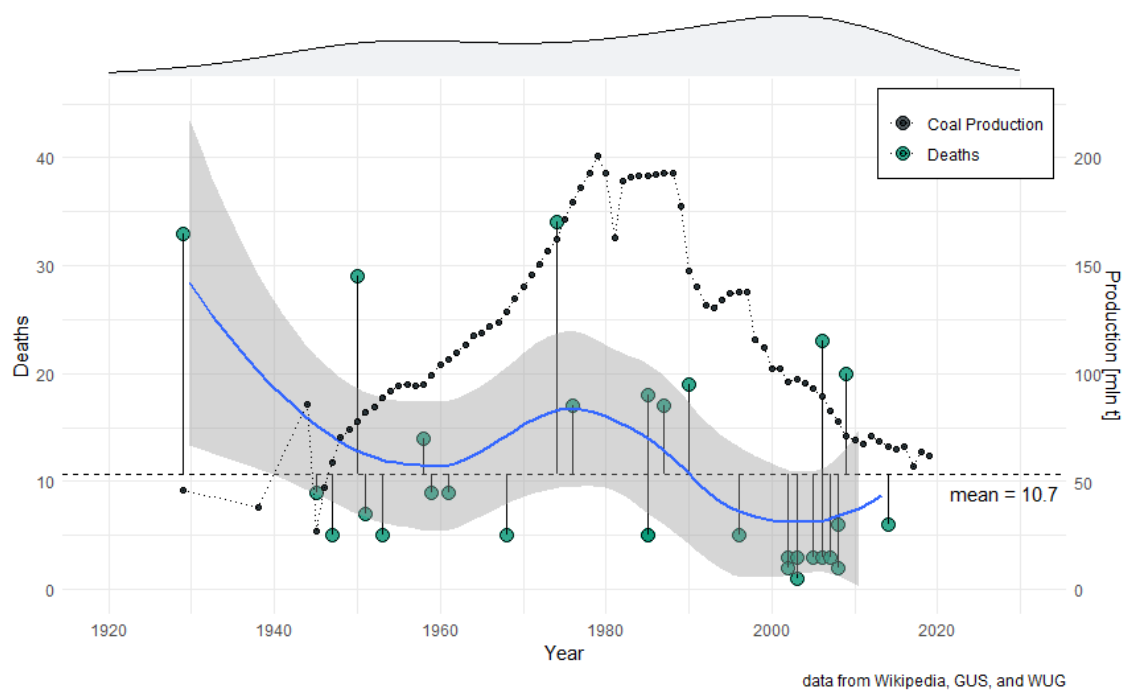


Source: <https://www.epa.gov/cmop/frequent-questions>

# MOTIVATION

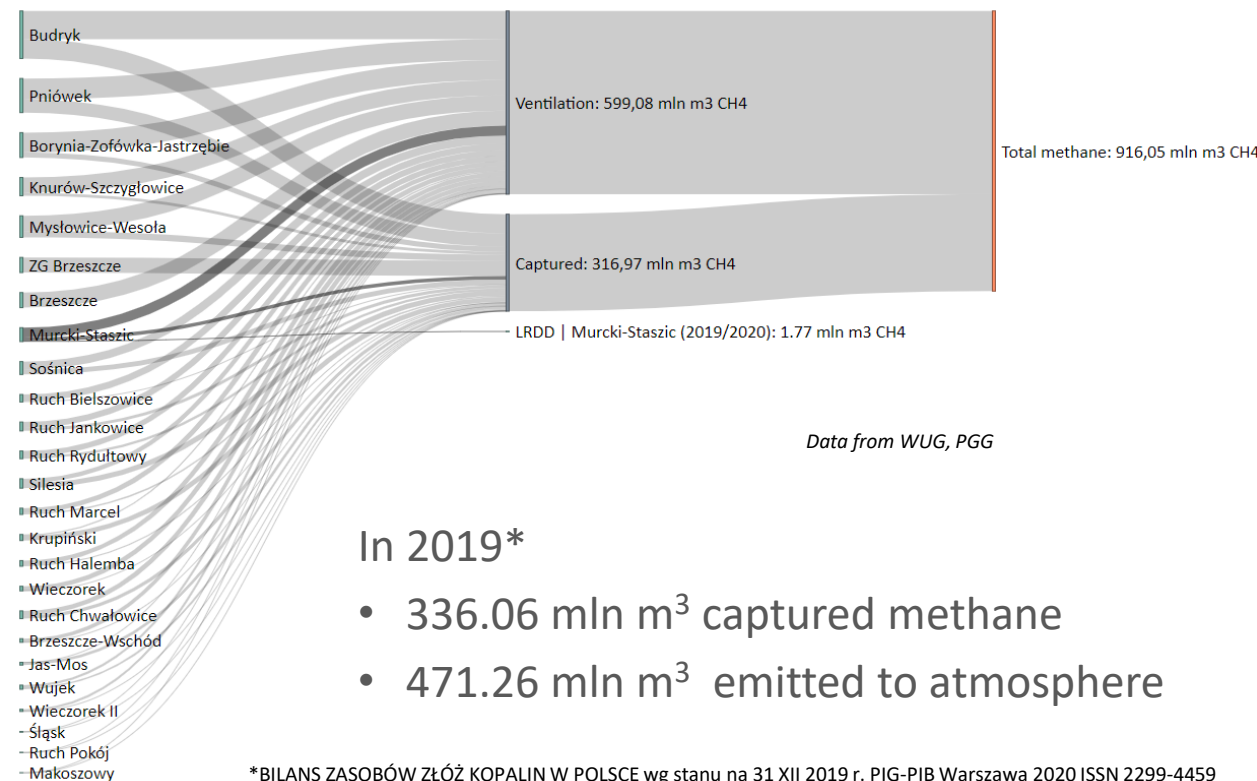
Reduce GHG emissions  
Improve safety and productivity

Hard Coal Production and Methane Outburst Accidents in Polish Coal Mines  
total number of fatalities 320



CMM released and captured during mining operations in 2018

Methane drainage efficiency 34.6%



In 2019\*

- 336.06 mln m<sup>3</sup> captured methane
- 471.26 mln m<sup>3</sup> emitted to atmosphere

# METHANE DRAINAGE CONSIDERATIONS

Geologic characterization

Reservoir characterization

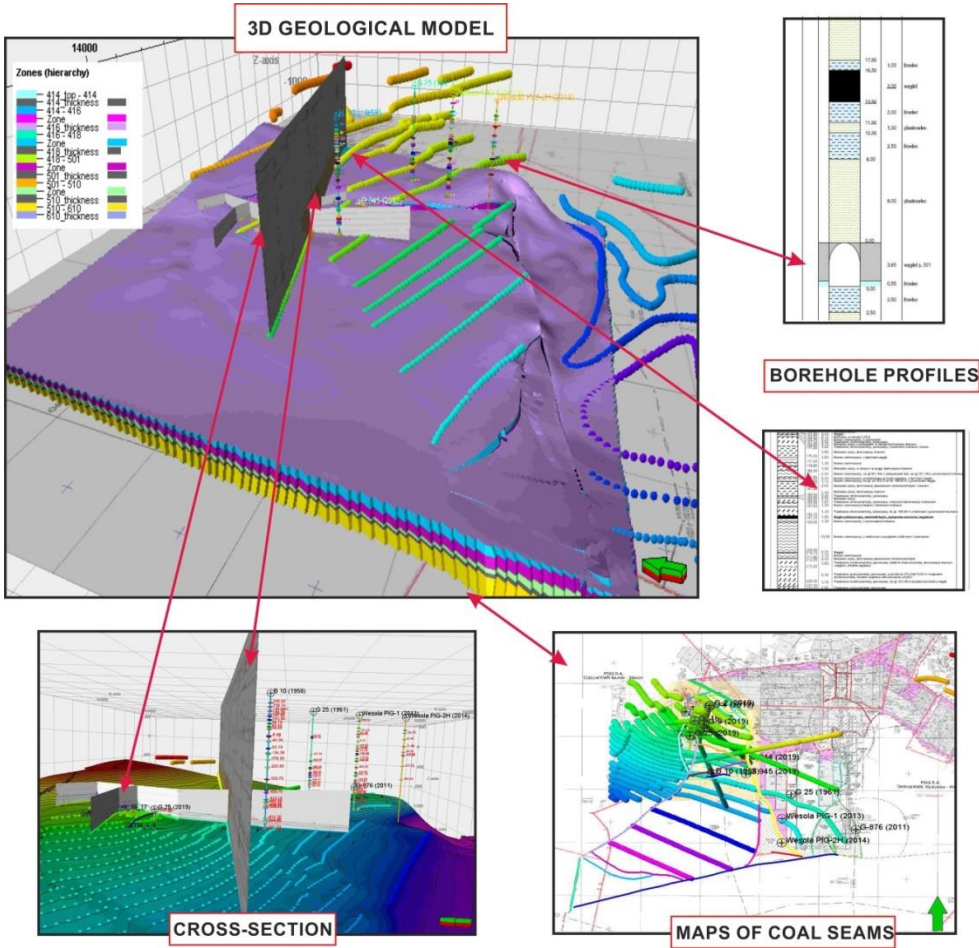
Source of gas emissions

Mining technique

Operation time schedule/mining activity

Drainage approach/techniques

- 
- 
- 



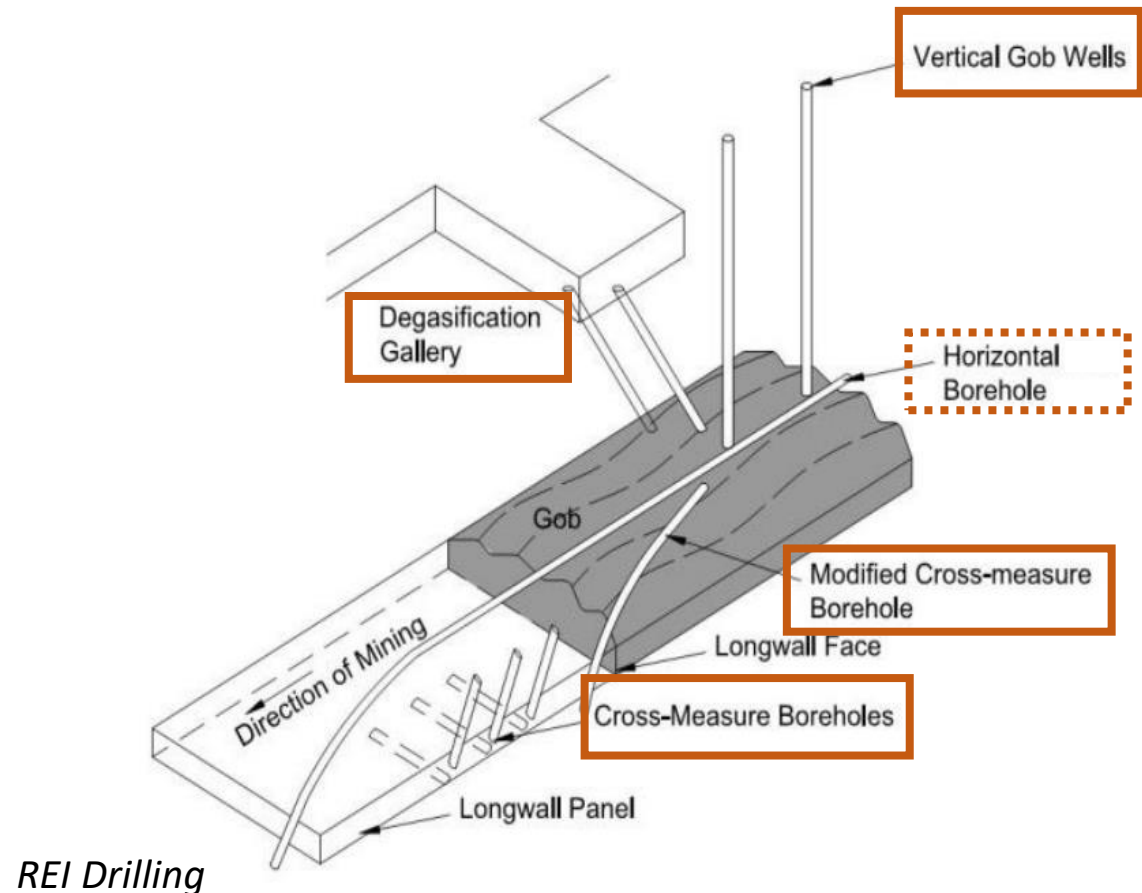
# METHANE CONTROL STRATEGIES

- dilution to safe concentrations with the ventilation system
- capturing in boreholes gas drainage galleries
- drainage before (pre-mining) and/or during coal exploitation

The strategy for gas control varies among different mines. In some coal mines the methane release at the operating longwall can be effectively managed using a ventilation air system. In gasses coal mines, however usually a combination of drainage and ventilation must be used.

CONVENTIONAL

ALTERNATIVE (new)





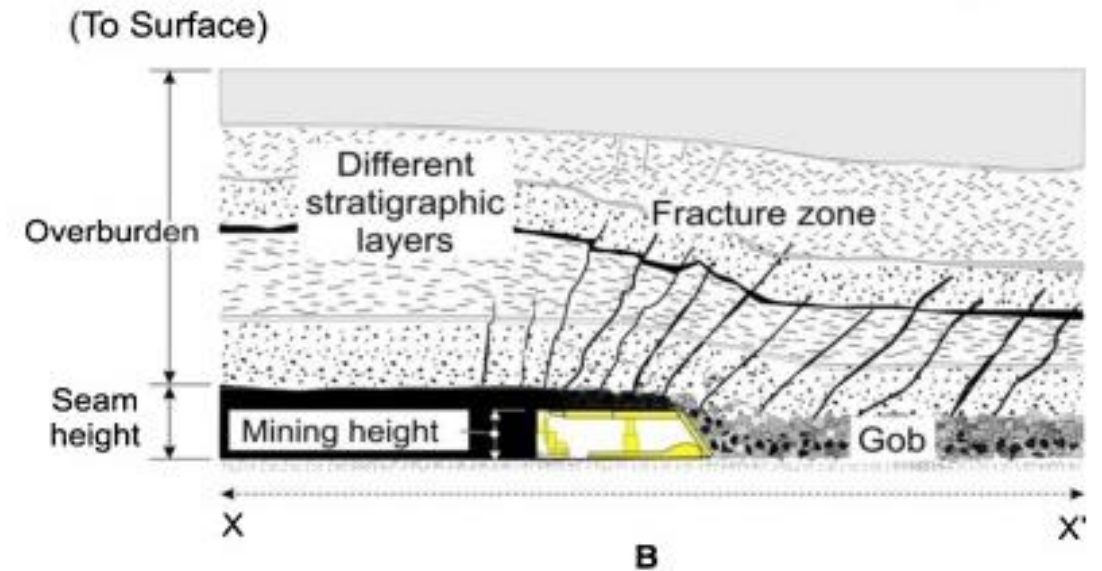
# LONG REACH DIRECTIONAL DRILLING

LRDD can operate in-seam cross a seam  
or be a combination of both

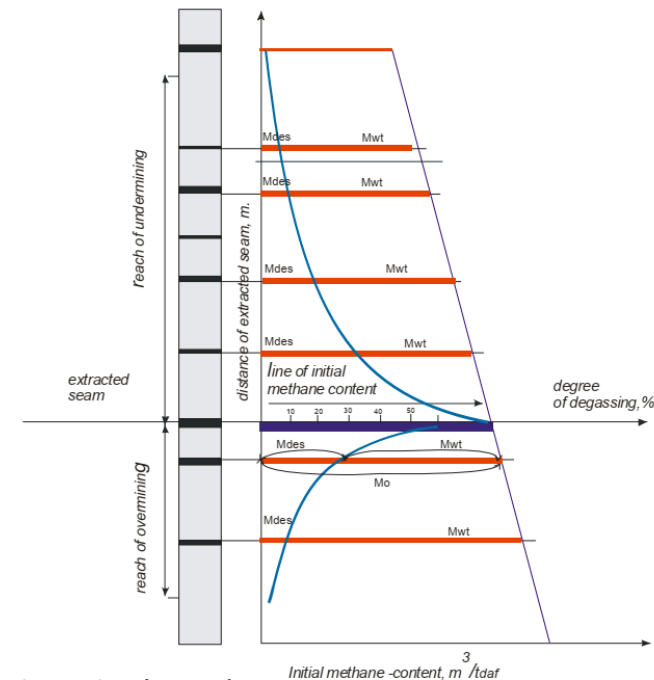
Drilled above the coal panel into the fractured zone  
(inside coal or sandstone) but above strata relaxation  
zone and gob zone

The rate of methane release in disturbed strata depends on:

- gas content
- thickness of disturbed coal seams
- strength of coal-bearing strata
- coal seam permeability
- rate of coal production
- the geometry of mine workings
- and mine design
- geology



*Karacan (2008)*

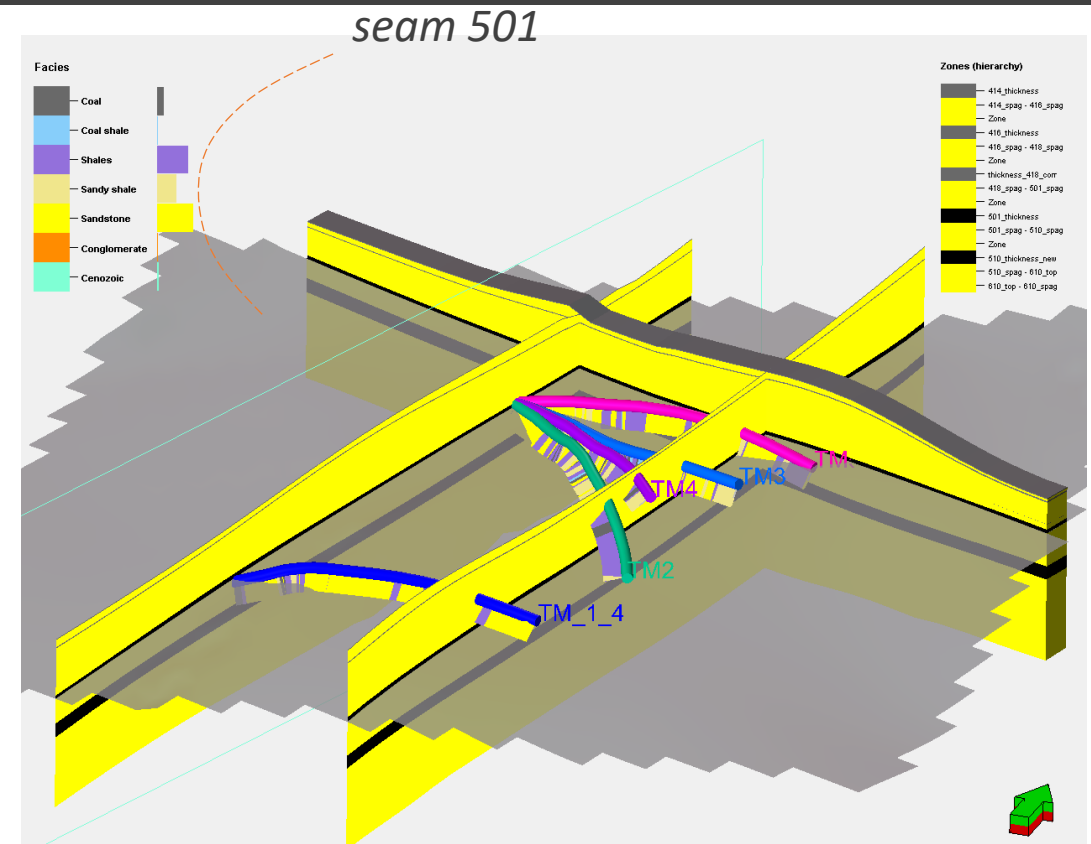
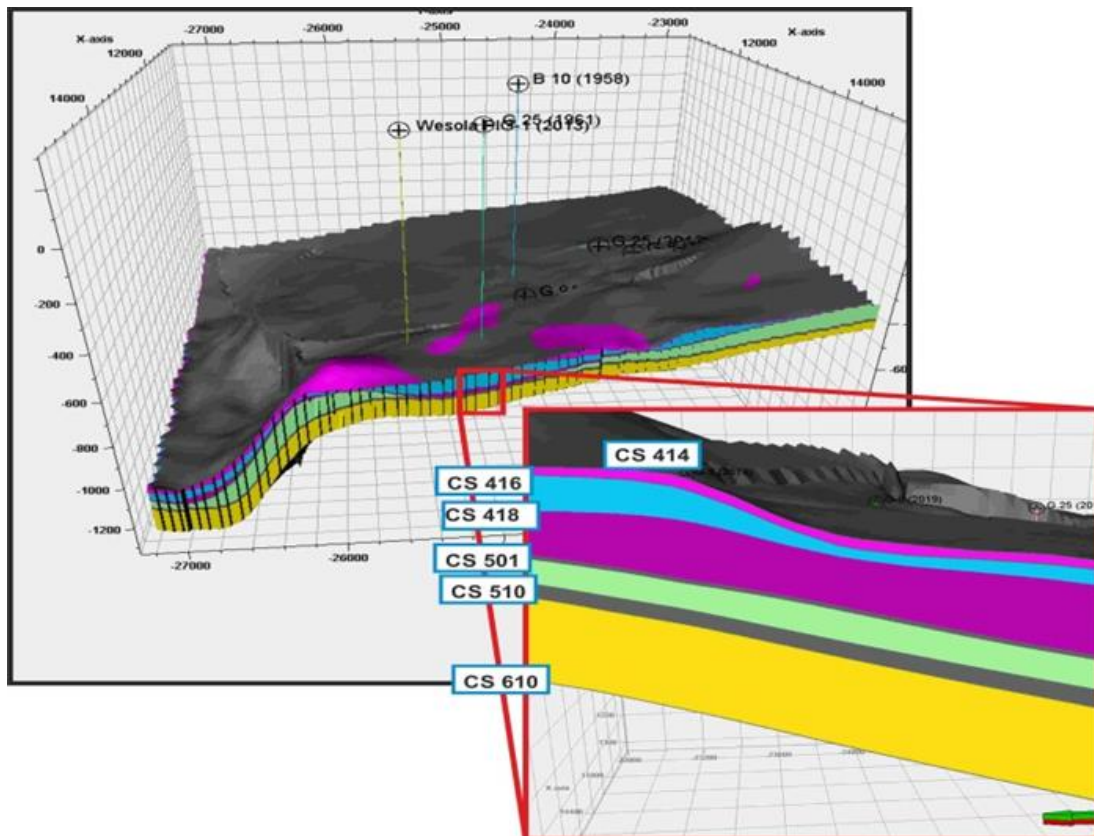


*Krause and Pokryszka (2013)*

*AREA OF STUDY*  
*with location of five LRDD wells*

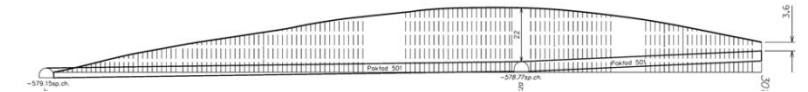
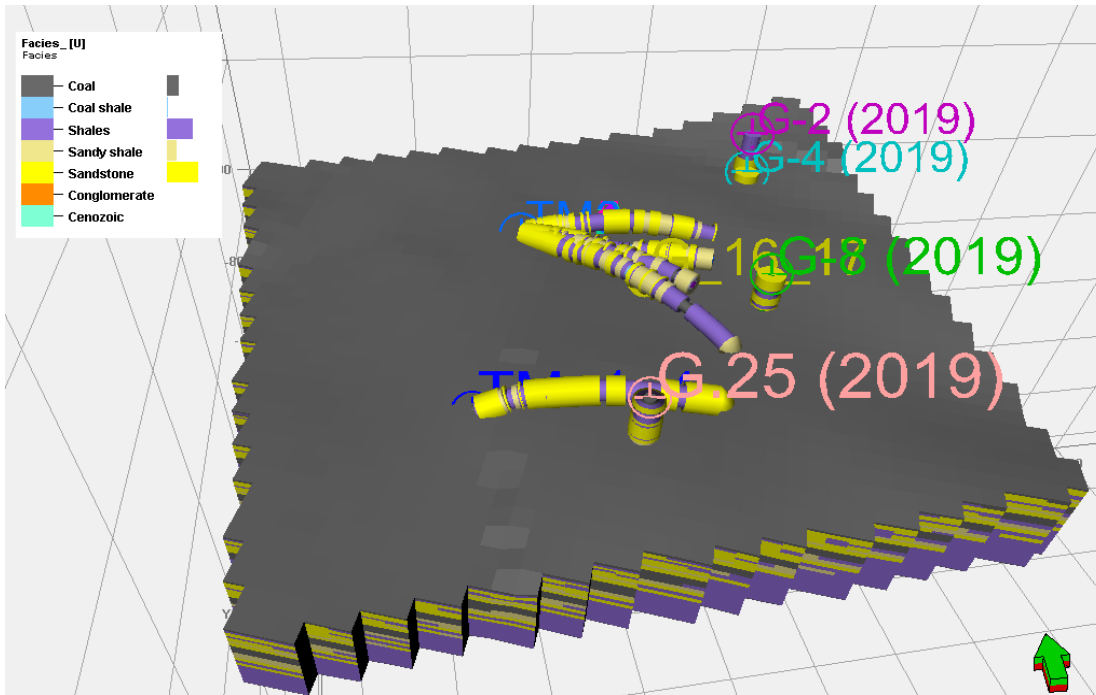
## Murcki-Staszic Hard Coal Mine

Reservoir properties	Pittsburgh	Pocahontas No.3	Lower Hartshorne	Blue Creek	USCB
Depth (m)	250-300	180-390	320-610	427-640	936
Permeability (mD)	10-15	10-27	1.2-1.6	12-20	0.5-1.0
Thickness (m)	2	2.1-2.4	1.4-4.3	1.5-1.9	1.2-8.8
Gas content (m3/t dmaf)	2-7	8-12.9	15.9-16.4	12.2-16.1	5-10

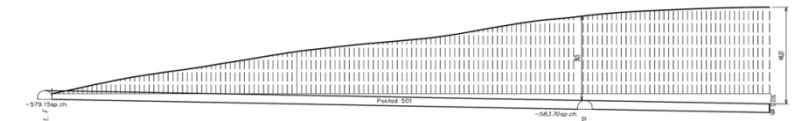




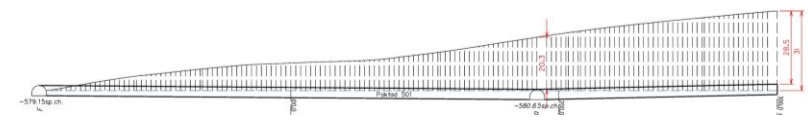
# LOCATION OF LRDD WELLS



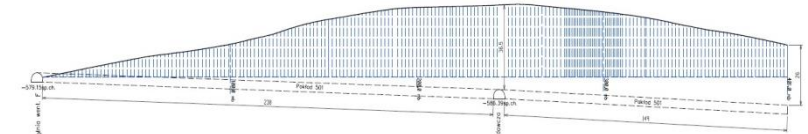
**Bore hole n° TM 5. length: 302 m**



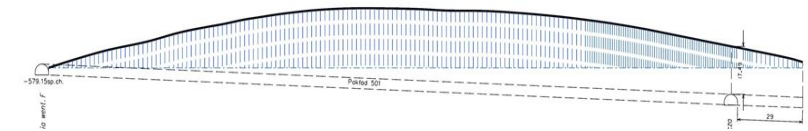
**Bore hole n° TM 4. length: 301 m**



**Bore hole n° TM 3. length: 300 m**



**Bore hole n° TM 2. length: 401 m**



**Bore hole n° TM 1a. length: 402 m**

## Initial technical parameters of the wells

well	TM-2	TM-3	TM-4	TM-5
Initial vertical angle:	+ 8°	+ 6°	+ 16°	+ 16°
Initial horizontal angle:	30°S ⊥	16°S ⊥	22°N ⊥	15°N ⊥
Planned lengths of the horizontal wells:	401.0m	300.0m	302.0 m	301.0 m

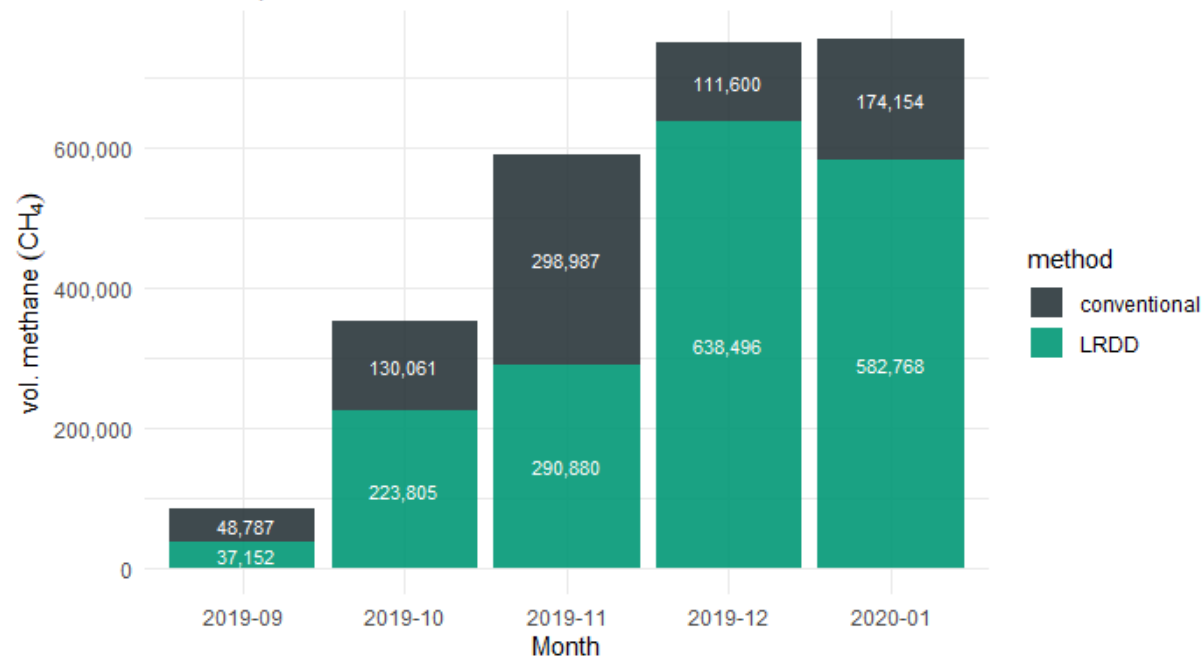
# DRAINAGE EFFICIENCY

Conventional: 763 588.8 m<sup>3</sup> CH<sub>4</sub> **(30.1%)**

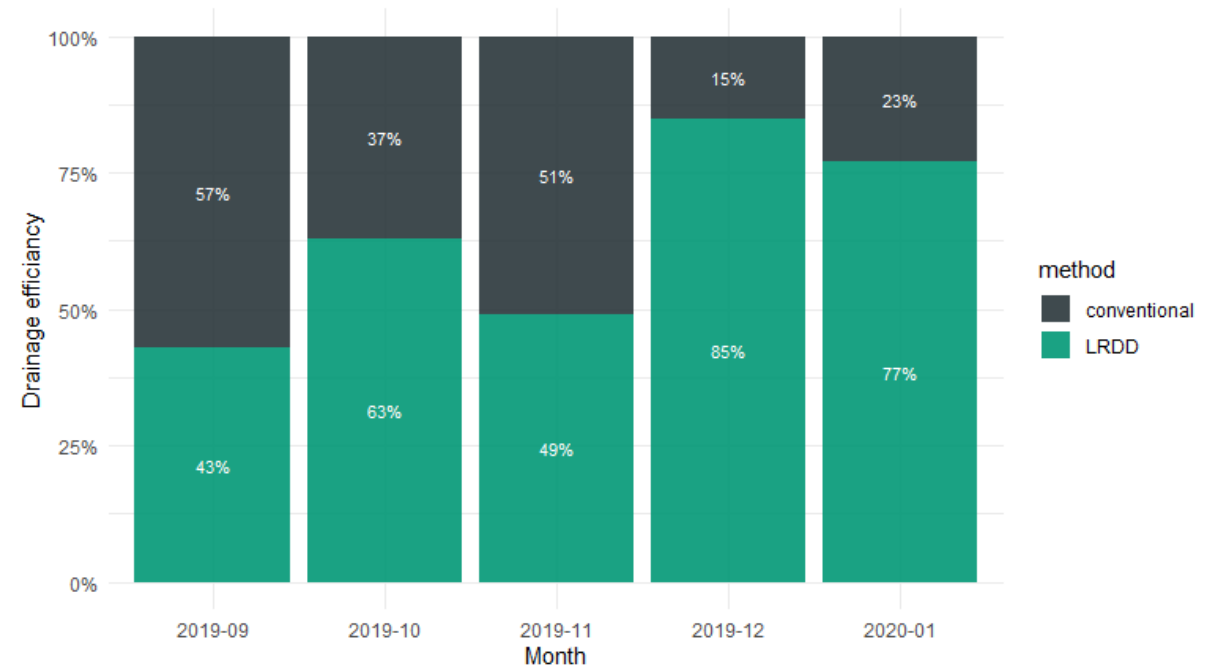
LRDD: 1 773 100.8 m<sup>3</sup> CH<sub>4</sub> **(69.9%)**

SUM: 2 536 689.6 m<sup>3</sup> CH<sub>4</sub>

Volume of methane captured with conventional and LRDD technology  
5 months period



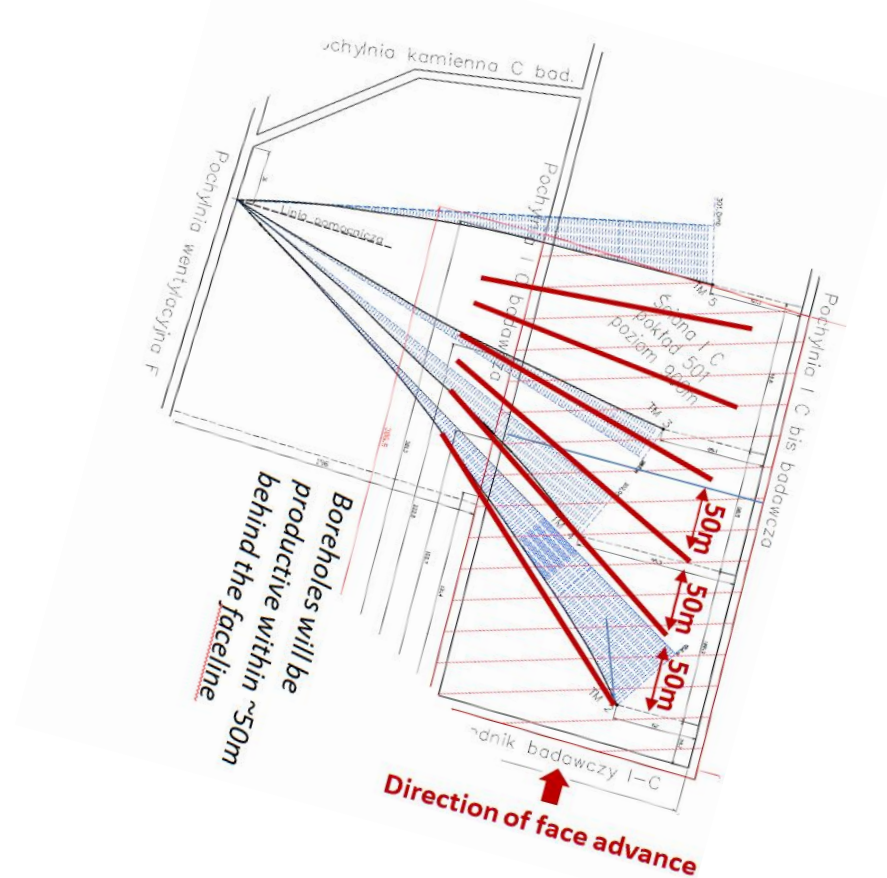
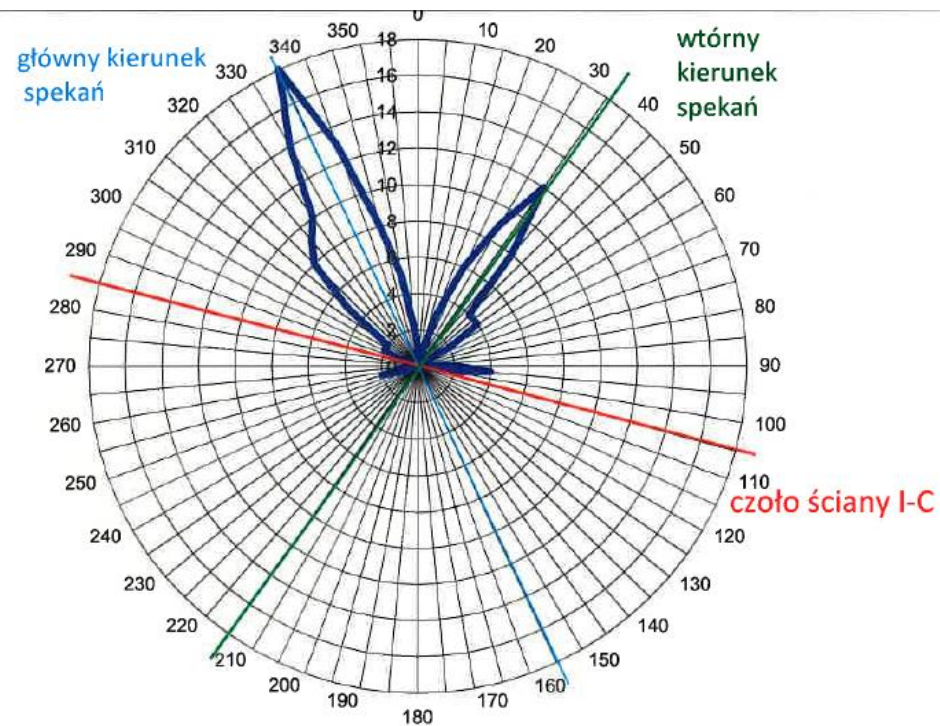
Comparison between conventional and LRDD drainage efficiency  
5 months period



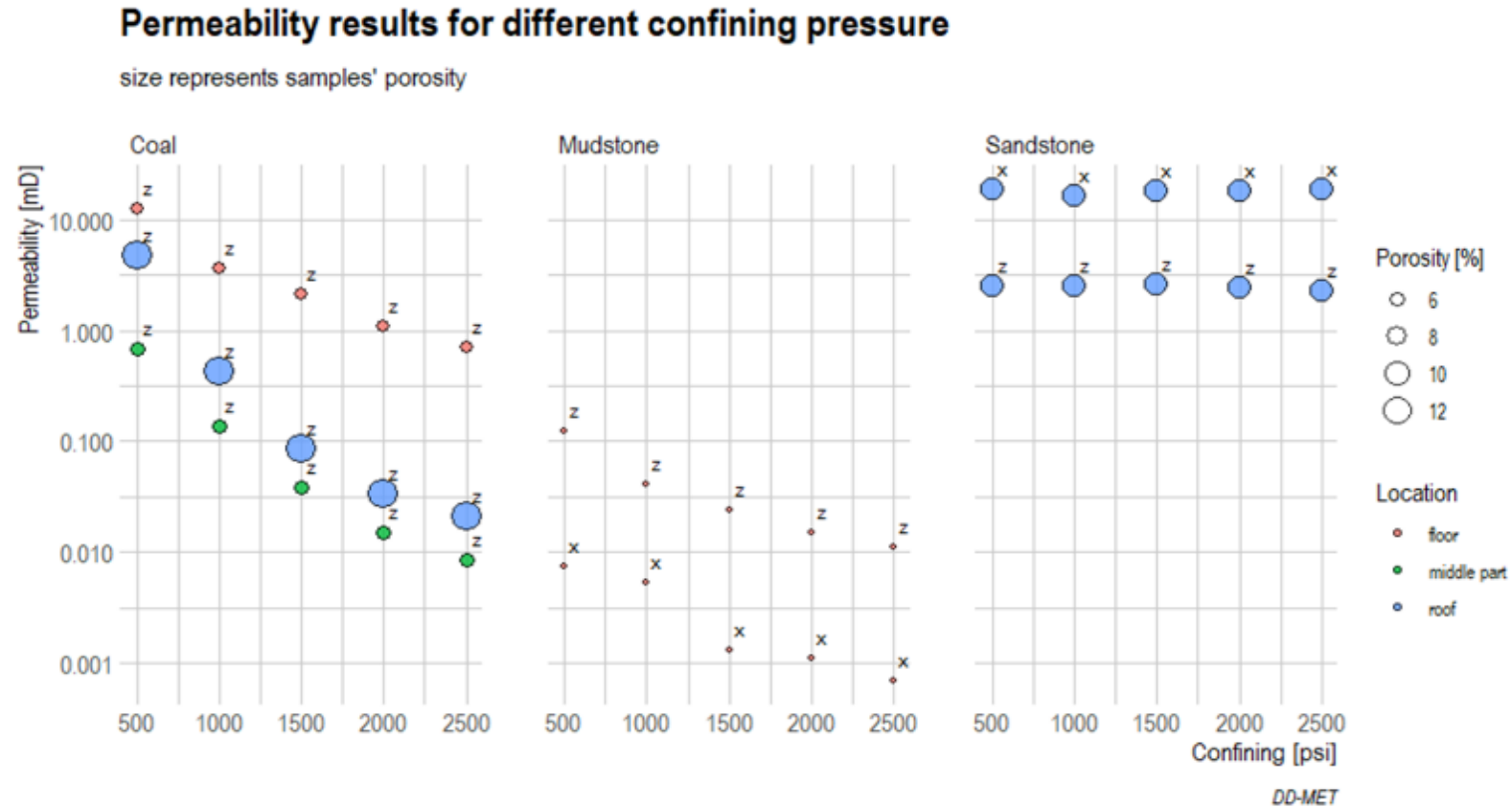
# COAL PROPERTIES / GEOMECHANICS (selected samples)

## WELL TRAJECTORIES

with relation to primary and secondary fracture system



# COAL and CLASTIC ROCK PROPERTIES / PERMEABILITY (selected samples)

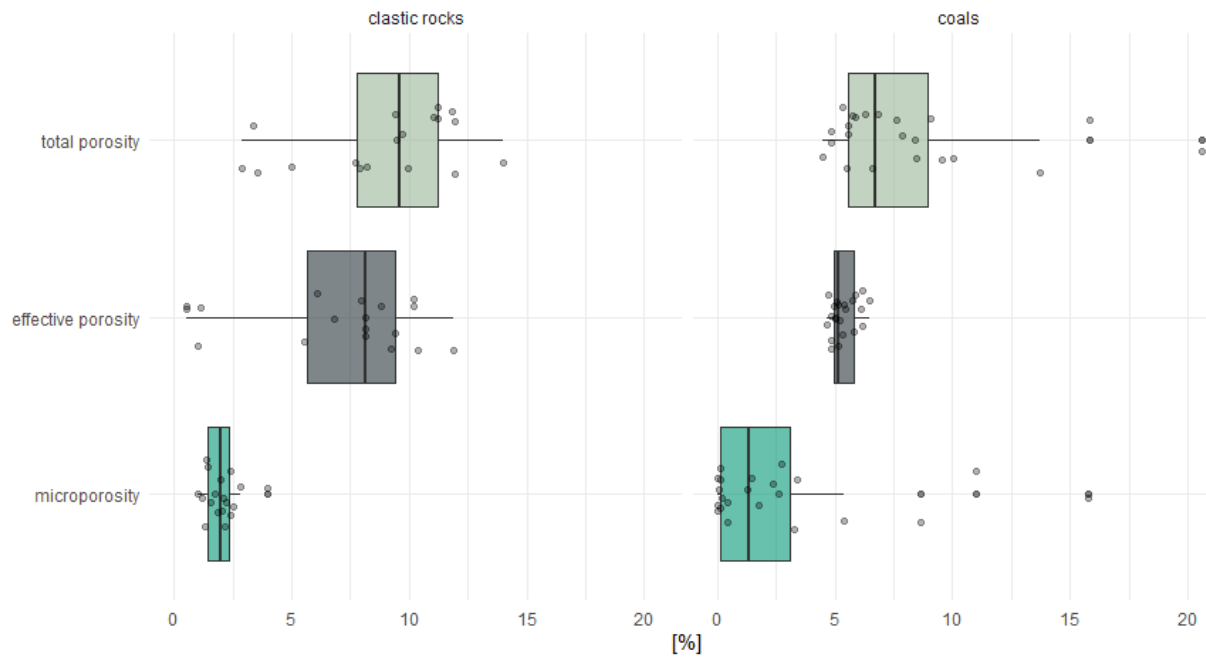


# COAL and CLASTIC ROCK PROPERTIES / POROSITY

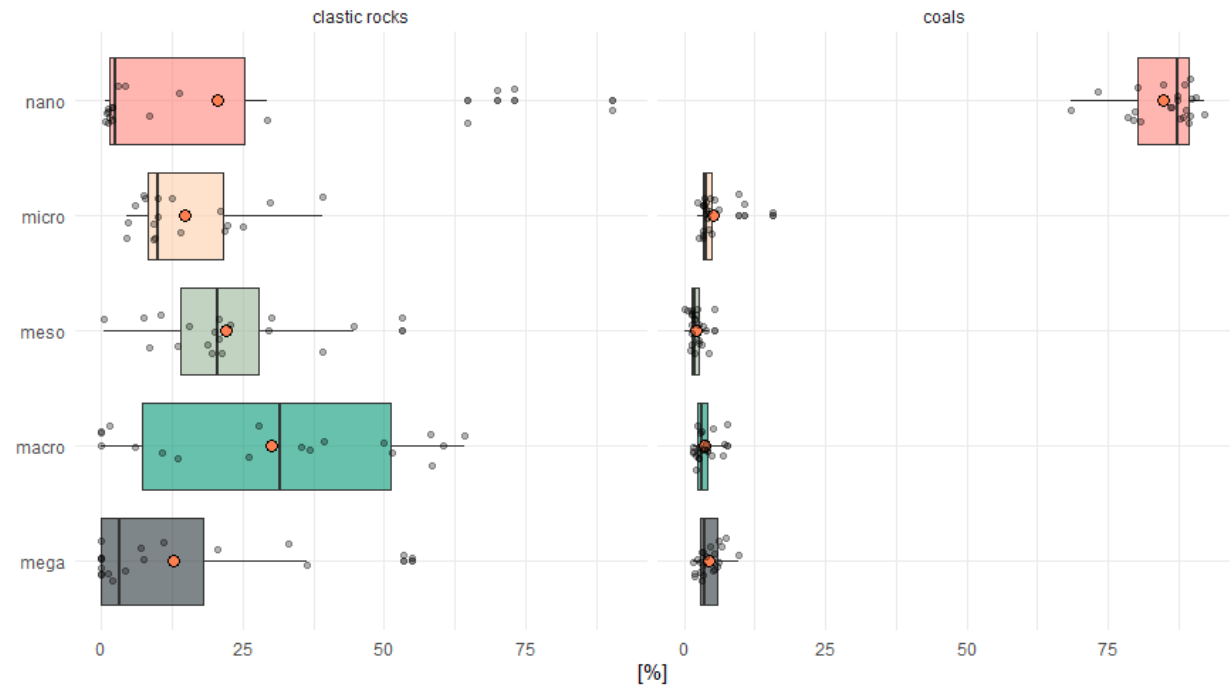
16 SANDSTONES  
18 COALS  
3 MUDSTONES

Distribution of a different types of porosity

microporosity represent porosity < 3 nm



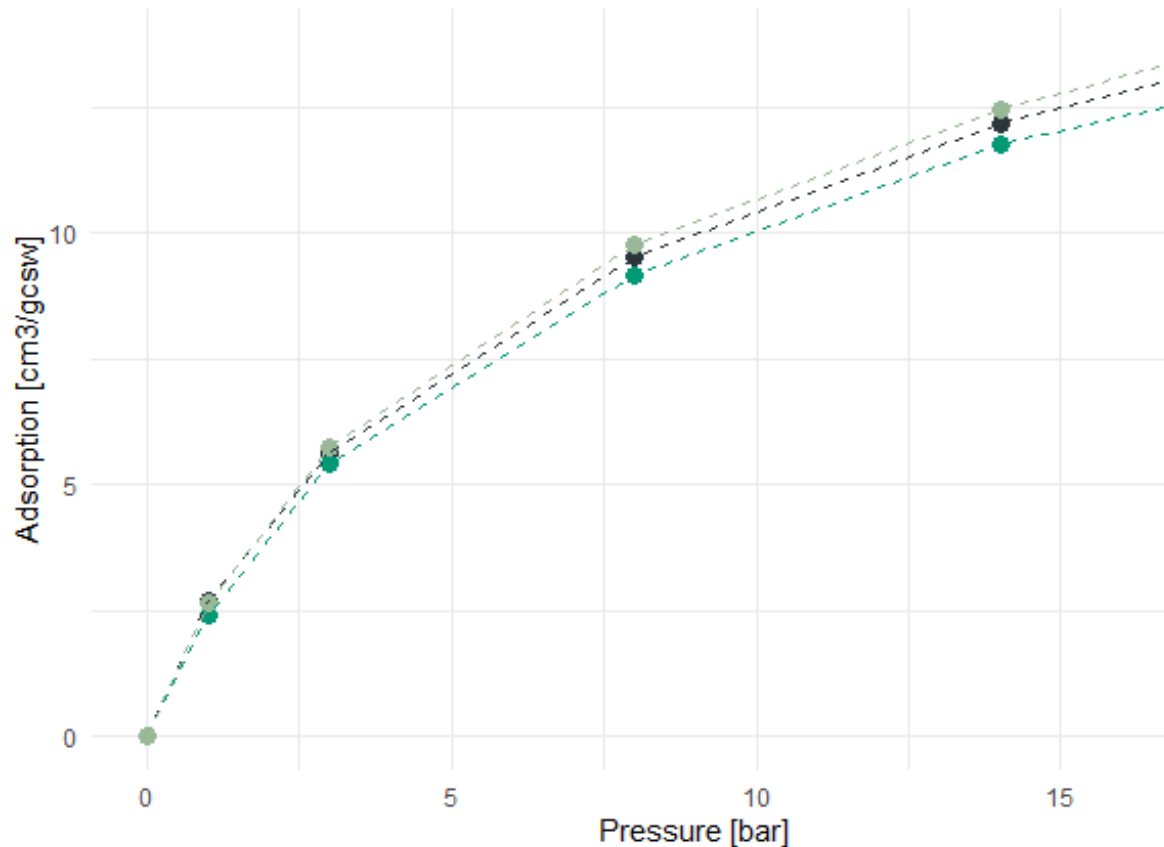
Distribution of pore fractions



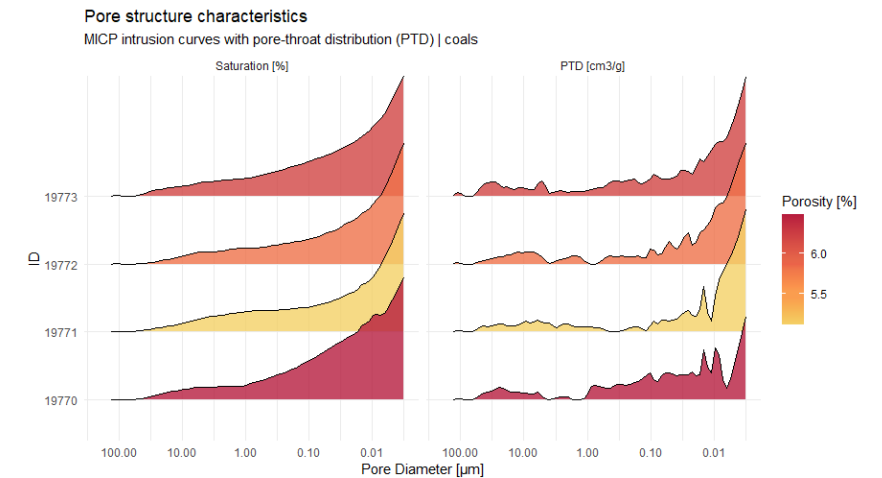
# COAL PROPERTIES / SORPTION ISOTHERMS (selected samples)

The maximum methane content of seam 501, in the region of C lot can reach  $9.15 \text{ m}^3\text{CH}_4/\text{t}$ , which indicates the highest IV<sup>th</sup> methane hazard category

High-pressure methane sorption isotherms



The sorption isotherms for the indicated pressures are similar, which proves the similar pore structure of the analyzed coal samples





# CONCLUSIONS

The preliminary results of pilot wells proved that LRDD technology is an effective tool for improving safety and productivity during coal extraction and helps reducing GHG emissions in MS CM

The obtained high CH<sub>4</sub> drainage efficiency for LRDD wells could be a coincidence of high coal CH<sub>4</sub> content and good reservoir properties for barren rocks such as high permeability, moderate porosity, high uniaxial compressive strength – UCS (questions about internal friction angle - IFA ?, mineralogy ?, Young's module, Poisson's ratio?)

Also, the location of LRDD wells with the favorable regime of the primary and secondary fracture system seems to play an important role in drainage efficiency

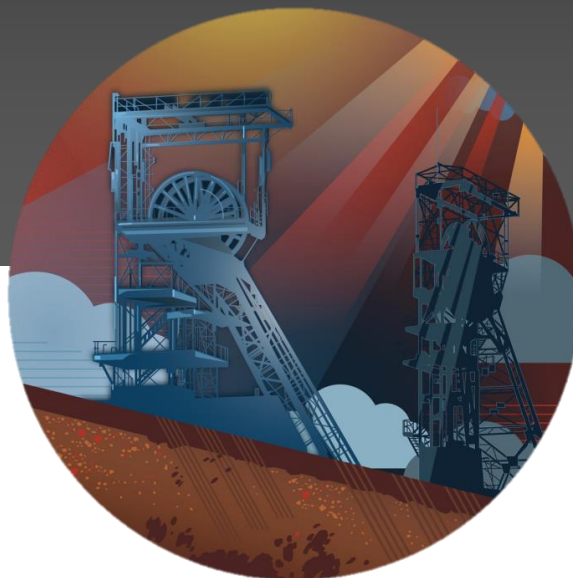
This hypothesis is being verified using laboratory tests and geological modeling tools

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



POLSKA GRUPA  
GÓRNICZA

Imperial College  
London



# DD-MET

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