

Top stories of the day: China Coal and Power -- March 3

China Economic Information
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1. China will implement a much stricter work safety requirement on access to coal industry, according to the work safety plan for the next five years released by the State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) for soliciting opinions.

The plan lifts the threshold for non-coalmine enterprise to access to the coalmine construction and production fields, and proposes to build and perfect a strict industry entry and exit mechanism for small-sized coalmines.

2. China's largest coalfield geological prospecting project has been officially initiated in Hami in eastern Xinjiang. Hami is one of the areas in Xinjiang rich in coal resources, with coal

resources estimated at 55 billion metric tons, 12.5 percent of the nation's total. It has a plan to build a 100 million-tonne coal production base.

3. Multinational oil giant Shell is going to develop coal-bed methane (CBM) reserves in northwest China's Xinjiang.

According to Securities Times reports on Wednesday, Shell has inked a framework agreement with Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region government to conduct exploration and development of non-conventional natural gas resources, including CBM reserves. According to agreement, Shell will launch cooperation with enterprise with coal exploration license in Xinjiang.

4. The State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) announced in its website that it will launch a campaign to check the power transaction and market order of China's major power grid operators and some power generators. The campaign is scheduled to conclude before the end of March.

5. Construction of the strong smart grid will be pushed forward in an all-round way in China in 2011, the State Grid Co. announced Wednesday. The State Grid plans to build 11 pilot smart grid projects, including building of 67 smart substations, the automatic power distribution systems in the core areas of 19 cities, application of 50 million smart meters, extending electric power optical fiber to 62,000 households, 25 smart grid community/building project, power loading of 20 million-kilowatt windmills. (BY Zhao Mengyu)

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