

INCREASE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF MINE FANS WORK ON A MINE VENT NETWORK

¹Bunko T.V., ²Shyshov M.V., ³Bokii O.B., ⁴Belikov A.S., ⁵Zhalilov O.Sh.,
¹Kokoulin I.Ye.

¹Institute of Geotechnical Mechanics named by N. Poliakov of National Academy of Science of Ukraine, ²DTEK ENERGO, ³GE Renewable Energy, GE Ukraine, ⁴Prydniprovsk State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture, ⁵State Enterprise «Selydivvugillya»

ПІДВИЩЕННЯ ЕНЕРГОЕФЕКТИВНОСТІ РОБОТИ ВЕНТИЛЯТОРІВ ГОЛОВНОГО ПРОВІТРЮВАННЯ ШАХТНОЇ ВЕНТИЛЯЦІЙНОЇ МЕРЕЖІ

¹Бунько Т.В., ²Шишов М.В., ³Бокий О.Б., ⁴Бєліков А.С., ⁵Жалілов О.Ш.,
¹Кокорулін І.Є.

¹Інститут геотехнічної механіки ім. М.С. Полякова НАН України, ²ДТЕК ЕНЕРГО,
³ТОВ «ДЖИІ Україна», ⁴Придніпровська державна академія будівництва і архітектури,
⁵ДП «Селидіввугілля»

ПОВЫШЕНИЕ ЭНЕРГОЭФФЕКТИВНОСТИ РАБОТЫ ВЕНТИЛЯТОРОВ ГЛАВНОГО ПРОВЕТРИВАНИЯ ШАХТНОЙ ВЕНТИЛЯЦИОННОЙ СЕТИ

¹Бунько Т.В., ²Шишов М.В., ³Бокий А.Б., ⁴Беликов А.С., ⁵Жалилов А.Ш.,
¹Кокорулин И.Е.

¹Институт геотехнической механики им. Н.С. Полякова НАН Украины, ²ДТЭК ЭНЕРГО,
³ООО «ДжиИ Украина», ⁴Приднепровская государственная академия строительства и архитектуры,
⁵ГП «Селидовуголь»

Annotation. The expense of electric power on ventilation of mines depends on the amount of main fans (MF), their working regimes, MF interaction on an outgoing stream, qualities of vent network, coefficient of the useful use of the air and row of other factors given in a mine. These factors are very multidimensional, and for the removal of them different methods and facilities are needed: technical, organizational, multifactor design and others. The increase of power effectiveness of the MF work is the basic condition of perfection of mine ventilation. During realization of multifan ventilation there is the non-productive «overbalancing» of vent stream toward more powerful fan and decline the same of efficiency of work both. The questions of decline of MF interaction on the outgoing stream of air and increase of aerodynamic quality of vent network are studied and is taken into account not enough. Varying within the limits of area of the industrial use by productivity and the MF pressure, it is possible, not violating the requirements of Rules of safety in coal mines to speed of air in objects-users, to attain optimum correlation of these parameters for examined MF. The method of calculation of the effective operating conditions of MF taking into account MF associate and areas-users of crisp air in MVN and on the basis of criterion of estimation of MF interaction degree is offered. It is shown that senescence of the mine workings, them encumber, bring in the wear of the MF elements certain error in vent calculations, and this factor must be taken into account. The method of calculation and determination of the rational operating MF modes was enhanced; the approach is different because it uses the coupled nonlinear dependences between pressure and the MF feed and air rates in the separate ventilation objects and because the mutual influence estimation criterion is applied. So the method cannot solve the task of substantial increase of ventilation energy efficiency. The problem is multydimensional and requires the complex use of technical, organizational and analytical calculation methods. However, modeling of the aerodynamic condition of the mine vent system using this method, combined with implementation of organizational and technical decisions, will allow receive positive high-quality changes of ventilation, and enable to increase the energy efficiency of the MF work.

Keywords: main fan, area of the industrial use, aerodynamic state of the vent system, power effectiveness.

Introduction. The main fans (MF) are the basic users of electric energy in a mine – they consume 25 % and more of mine's general power consumption. In spite of

considerable successes in creating the MF with excellent stand aerodynamic parameters, in practice the efficiency of majority of them is considerably lower than normative values. It is caused by the features of the technological loading of turbomachines, determined by aerological parameters of modern mine vent networks (MVN). Their topology and aerodynamic parameters change continuously resulting in failure of the MF to work within the operative norms.

Thus the unjustified excess expenditure of electric power on ventilation reduces the safety of the MF operation. Electric power consumed for mines ventilation depends on the amount of MFs, their working modes, their mutual influence on output airflow, quality of vent network, efficiency rate of using the supplied air and a number of other factors in a mine.

Electric power overuse at coal mines is caused by [1]:

a) excessive air loss. In the over-mine buildings and in the ventilating set there are always infiltrations and losses which are difficult to calculate, and impossible to fully remove;

b) feed of the excessive amount of air to the independently ventilated objects. Organizing the fully independent air feed to the object is impossible, and one ventilation direction also ventilates a number of basic and additional users. Optimization of forced air redistribution between them causes the lack of air in some of them; and the only way to vent it is to supply the excessive air into another;

c) mismatch between actual and predicted gas-emission, based on which the required amount of air for ventilation is determined. Usually actual gas-emission exceeds the prognosis, that requires excessive air supply;

d) unsatisfactory condition of the mine workings, their blocking;

e) small load on the stope;

g) irrationality of mine ventilating scheme (extent of mine works, one-wing development of the mine field and others);

h) maintained but actually not used air entries which all are the additional users of air;

i) small work-load of MF and their low efficiency;

j) negative mutual influence of MFs in case their operating mode was chosen incorrectly;

k) MF mutual influence on the outgoing air flow.

Apparently, these factors are very multidimensional, and for their removal different methods and facilities are needed: technical, organizational, multifactor modelling and others.

Certainly, a dominant role is given to correct designing of the vent system. However, even if the designer knows and takes into account all mining-and-geological and assumed mining conditions of developing the deposit, guaranteeing of complete accordance of project to the real conditions is impossible. It is impossible to take into account all the values affecting the efficiency; many of them are simply unknown to the designer.

Basic condition of increasing the ventilating energy efficiency is to reduce the negative influencing of factor a).

It is possible to control the factor b) by using local adjusting air facilities, if they are available on a mine. However researches show that such adjusting influences the MF parameters, and it is unclear which is more preferable: to redistribute air more effectively between users by means of local adjusting or accept the possible decline of MF energy efficiency due to the change (increase) of their resistance. Factor c) is clear: the more methane – the more air is needed, and the safety requirements prevail over power energy effectiveness.

Factor d) - it is possible to overcome it, but this factor is not a determining one.

Factor e) is possible to be used only to a certain degree, when a gas factor will exceed the energy efficiency of ventilation.

Factor f) depends on a designer; it's hardly possible that he assumes the miscalculations without a strong reason.

Factor g) generally must not take place, and if it can be reasonably and effectively removed it will undoubtedly increase the energy efficiency of ventilation.

Factor h), if it occurs, is either a miscalculation of mine management, or requires conducting of additional researches in order to find out why such situation occurred and how to remove it.

Factors i) and j) are mutually related, but if influence of factor i) can be reduced by the changing the MF working mode without affecting the energy efficiency of other factors, then factor j) is difficult to predict.

The effect of mutual influence of MFs on the outgoing air flow has been known for long time, however until recent time it was not possible to estimate the degree of such mutual influence and to control it.

As a result of comprehensive study of energy saving in the mine vent system, a normative document [2] «Energy saving. Means of reducing the energy consumption in coal mines' systems» (in the SOU grade) was developed and introduced into the system of Ministry of Coal Industry of Ukraine and used by the enterprises of Ministry of Power Engineering and Coal Industry of Ukraine.

It covers practically all questions of energy saving; however it does not sufficiently calculated the new approaches based on imitation modelling, when it is necessary to provide quantitative estimation of mutual influence between the elements of the single vent system – MF and MVN. The former need to be regarded as the energy consumers, and the latter – as the energy dischargers (possibly, ineffective). It is required to solve two tasks: upgrading of vent network (factor d)) and reducing the mutual influence of MF (factor j)).

Reducing influence of factor d) will reduce the resistance $R(i,j)$, Pa·s²/m⁸ of the working (i,j) and increase its air throughput capacity $Q(i,j)$, m³/s. Reducing influence of factor j) will help decrease the air «overbalancing» between the weaker and more powerful MF, decreasing by this energy efficiency of the more powerful fan. In complex, the solution of these tasks will allow to solve the air-distribution problem in MVN without violating the requirements of Safety Rules in Coal Mines, and at the same time to keep the energy saving factor as close to optimal value as possible.

Results and discussions. The energy saving analysis of the MF work conducted in accordance with [1], shows that the range of the possible MF air gate modes can be

divided into three different areas:

- a) where increased energy consumption is accompanied by substantial increase of the MF feed (area of the effective adjustment);
- б) where this increase does not result in substantial growth of the MF feed;
- в) intermediate.

Sizes and configuration of these areas are determined by the change of rotation speed of the driving wheel, angle of its blades or combination of these methods. The location of these areas also is partially determined by the change of resistance of vent network. At certain conditions the area of the ineffective work of MF can be totally absent.

In accordance with item 5.4 [1] adjusting of the MF air gate modes to increase its energy efficiency is possible only with access to surplus amount of air. But such surplus amount of air can occur not only from ineffective MF working mode, but also from the forced violation of the MF pressure for overcoming of the harmful influence of other MF.

When developing the energy saving measures it is necessary to take into account the requirements to them:

- a) after their implementation a mine must be provided with the necessary amount of air;
- b) expenses on realization of energy saving measures must be substantially (no less than 2-3 times) less, than cost of saved energy;
- c) the conditions of people rescue in case of emergency in the mine must not get worse.

Until present time, mutual influence of more than two MF on a general network has not been studied. The first attempts to study such mutual influence are set forth in [3] on the example of one of the most difficult in aerological respect coal mines of Ukraine – mine «1/3 Novogrodivska» SE «Selidovugol».

The principle scheme of mutual influence of the MF of mine «1/3 Novogrodivska» looks as follows (Fig. 1).

The air is fed into MVN through two air-feeding shafts (points 1 and 3) and hole (point 2), deleting of the worked air – by four MF – (points 4,5,6,7).

Thus, the system of the «MF-MVN» of mine «1/3 Novogrodivska» contains a number of ventilating subsystems, different by structure, aerodynamic parameters and degree of influence on the aerodynamic condition of the system in whole and MF mutual influence.

The air incoming through the point 1 only ventilates the area (12, 13). However, because of mutual influence of MF in pit №5 (point 5) and vent shaft of mine no. 1 (point 4), part of air is redistributed to the point 8 and further to the point 5.

Air supplied though the point 3 ventilates area (10, 11). However depression of MF on a pit no.4 (point 7) and MF of pit №5 (point 5) causes redistribution of outgoing air flow from point 10 in the direction of crosscut of mines #1 and #3, points 9 and 7.

This forms up the areas of mutual influence of all four mine's MFs. Their boundaries are located in points 10 (for mutual MFs influence of vent shaft of mine

analytical model: total amount of air \bar{Q}_{com} (m³/s) in the nodes of MF mutual influence border

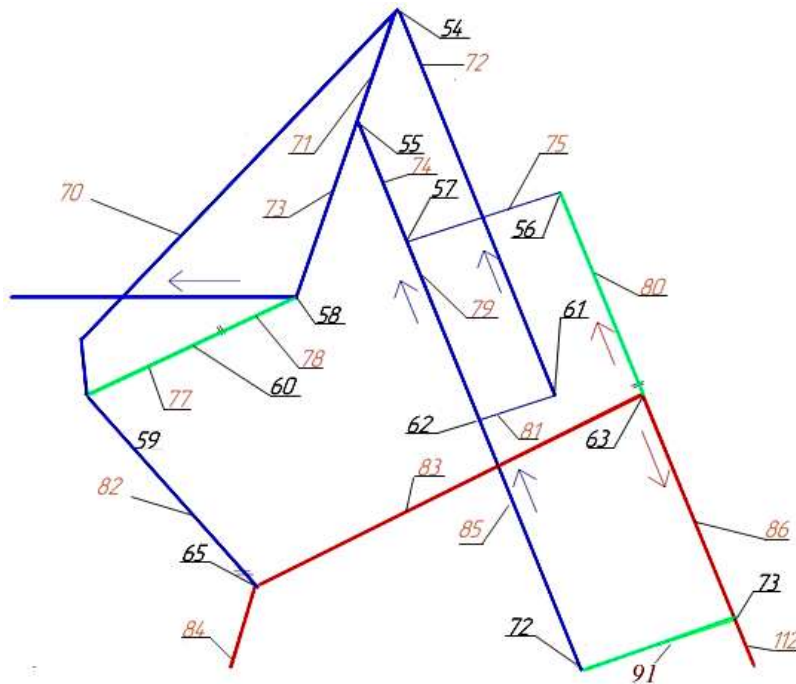


Figure 2 - To the consideration areas of MF mutual influence

$$\bar{Q}_{com} = \sum_{(i,j_k) \in \bar{U}_{out}} Q(i, j_k) \rightarrow \sum_{(i,j_k) \in \bar{U}_{out}} \left\{ \min_{(i,j_n) \in U_l^b} \sum Q(i, j_n) + \max_{(i,j_m) \in U_p^b} \sum Q(i, j_m) \right\}, \quad (1)$$

where (i,j_k) is the branch of MVN, own to the mutual influence zone of MF, sense of air motion from node i to node j ; \bar{U}_{out} is set of MVN branches, incident with nodes of MF mutual influence border of the return-air course; k, n, m are finite nodes of branches, which transport air to MF k, n, m ; l, p are numbers of MF; U_l^b, U_p^b are the influence zones of the MF with numbers l and p .

If we vary productivity and the MF pressure within its production use limits, it is possible to attain optimal relation of these parameters for $\sum_n Q(i, j) \leq \sum_m Q(i, j_m)$ MFS without violating the requirements of Safety Rules in Coal Mines on air speed.

The results of adjusting the MF feed with the purpose to improve the ventilation energy efficiency can be received by solving the following task:

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in U_l} Q(i, j) = 0, \quad l = 1, \dots, m_s \quad (2)$$

$$\sum_{(i,j) \in U_\mu} \{ \text{sign}[Q(i, j)] R(i, j) Q^2(i, j) \pm h_b \} + \sum_{(i,j) \in (U_\mu \cap U_b)} H(i, j) = 0, \quad \mu = 1, \dots, n_s - m_s + 1 \quad (3)$$

with limitations (1) and

$$H(i, j) = a(i, j) - b(i, j) Q^2(i, j), \quad (i, j) \in U_b, \quad (4)$$

$$R(i, j) = \frac{\alpha(i, j)L(i, j)P(i, j)}{[S(i, j)]^3}, \quad (i, j) \in U \setminus U_b, \quad (5)$$

where U is a set of the MVN branches; U_l is the set of branches, incident to the node l ; U_μ is the set of branches related to μ - independent contour; U_b is the set of branches, represent MF; $H(i, j)$ is a depression of working or MF (i, j) , Pa; $a(i, j)$, $b(i, j)$ are the coefficients of the MF pressure characteristics, Pa and Pa·s²/m⁶ accordingly; $\alpha(i, j)$ is the coefficient of resistance, Pa·s²/m²; $L(i, j)$ is the length of working, m; $S(i, j)$ is area of transversal section of working, m²; $P(i, j)$ is perimeter of working, m; n_s , m_s denotes number of branches and nodes in the MVN calculation scheme accordingly; h_e is depression of natural draft, Pa.

Figure 3 shows the structure of the solution to this task.

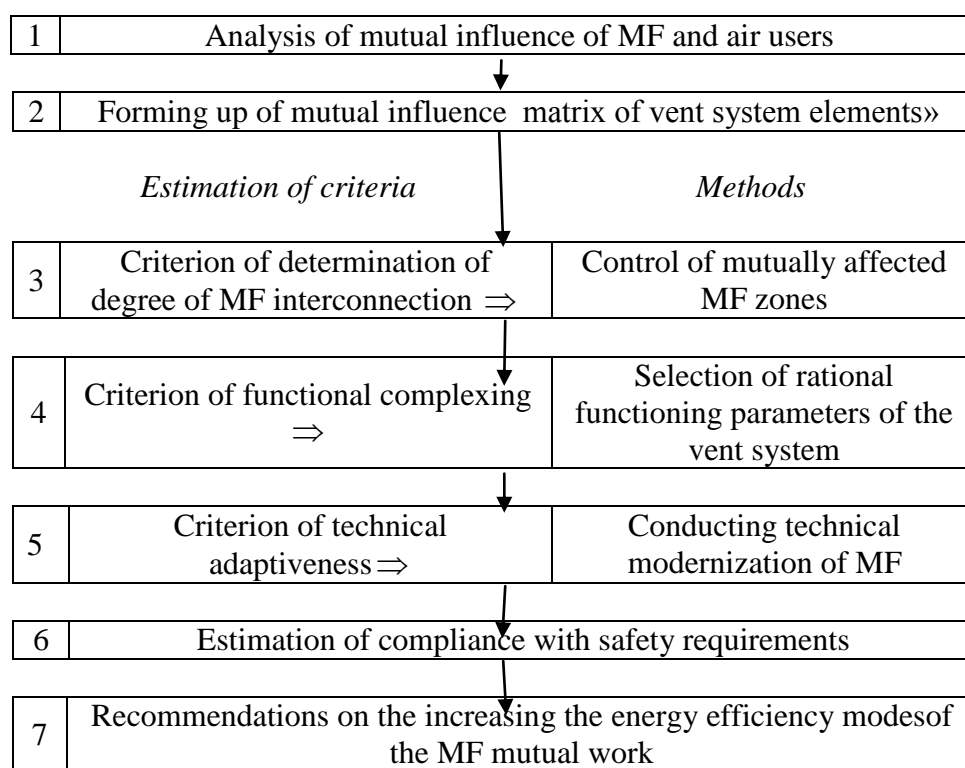


Figure 3 - Structure of solving the task of choosing the energy saving mode of MF work

Scheme at Figure 3 is intentionally extended with the purpose to show the extension of the task and its place in the general problem of increasing the energy efficiency of the joint work of MF. Here we consider only the task (2)-(4) using the criterion (1) (block 1).

At the time of solving the task, the criteria of blocks 4 and 5 and the requirements of the block 6 are considered to be completed, and after we solve the task, they must be additionally analyzed.

However on condition that at least the smooth or even gradational adjustment of MF characteristics is realizable, the solution for this task assumes conducting multiple calculations of air-flow distribution in MVN and comparison of their results.

The result can be received in a simpler way by using the K_i^j - coefficients of interconnection between the aerodynamic MF parameters (for better understanding: – air flow rate; i is air user, j is MF) and air working-user [4] (blocks 1 and 2 on the Figure 4). Such dependence, at least as applied to two MF, has almost linear character, which allows receive the result without using the optimizational calculations.

It is expedient to estimate only K_i^j which characterizes mutual influence of MF and the objects – users of air in MVN. For more eloquent presentation of the K_i^j system, an interaction matrix is being formed $|K_i^j| = |\Delta Q_i / \Delta Q^j|$ (Fig. 4).

$$\begin{pmatrix} Q_{i_1} & K_{i_1}^{j_1} & \dots & K_{i_1}^{j_m} \\ Q_{i_2} & K_{i_2}^{j_1} & \dots & K_{i_2}^{j_m} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ Q_{i_n} & K_{i_n}^{j_1} & \dots & K_{i_n}^{j_m} \end{pmatrix}$$

Figure 4 - Interaction matrix «VGP - users»

If $K_i^j > 0$, then at increased MF rate the air in the ventilated object increases as compared to base rate, otherwise it reduces. Line 1 at Figure 5 corresponds to the first case (the user is located conditionally in parallel to the dominant MF), lines 3 and 4 correspond to the second case (conditionally consecutive connection). Line 2 corresponds to the case $K_i^j = 0$.

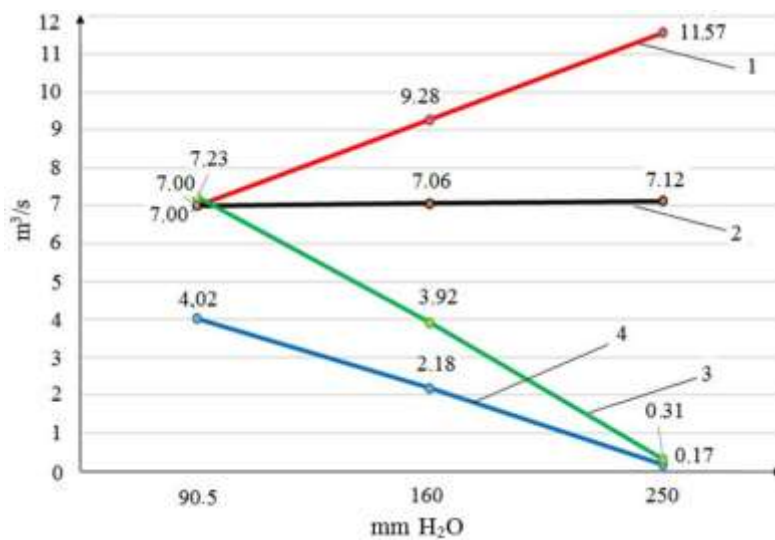


Figure 5 - Graphic illustration of Interaction «user - MF»

However, if the calculation of air-distribution is made with the real aerodynamic MF characteristics, and if compared to the results of previously made air-depression survey, one may notice certain differences. From one side, the reason for this is aging of mine workings, their varying blocking, and from the other side it is wear of the MF elements causing the mismatch between its real and project parameters. This factor

cannot be ignored while making accurate calculations on the criterion referred to above and allowing certain error limit arising from applying the theory of aerodynamic parameters interaction. The calculation can also be made using the aerological risk matrix (interconnection of the MF and MVN risks) [5] (Table 1).

Table 1 - Aerological risk matrix (interconnection of the MF and MVN risks)

Condition of MF		Condition of working, as a user and means of air supply											
		Good				Satisfactory				Unsatisfactory			
		X_1	X_2	X_3	X_4	X_5	X_6	X_7	X_8	X_9	X_{10}	X_{11}	X_{12}
Good	Y_1	1	1	1	1	0.75	0.8	0.75	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8
	Y_2	1	1	1	1	0.8	0.8	0.75	0.75	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
	Y_3	1	1	1	1	0.75	0.7	0.75	0.7	0.65	0.6	0.65	0.6
Satisfactory	Y_4	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.75	0.7	0.65	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
	Y_5	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.65	0.65	0.6	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.5
	Y_6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.5	0.55	0.5	0.5
Unsatisfactory	Y_7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.55	0.55	0.5	0.45	0.45	0.4	0.4
	Y_8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.35	0.35	0.3	0.25	0.25	0.2
	Y_9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.2	0.15	0.15	0.1	0.1

The following denominations are accepted in the Table: X_1 – the actual air rate, corresponds to the estimated rate; X_2 – absence of blockings; X_3 – the area cross-section of working corresponds to Safety Rules requirements to air flow speed for this type of user; X_4 – the limitations on use air flow locally regulation in area are absent; X_5 – actual rate exceeds the estimated rate (insufficient energy efficiency of ventilation); X_6 – only technological elements participating in the production process act like local resistance; X_7 – existing local resistance does not violate the Safety Rules requirements to air flow speed; X_8 – reduction of the cross-section of air entry is within the allowed limits; X_9 – the actual air rate is less than estimated rate; X_{10} – the local resistance of technological character violate the Safety Rules requirements to air flow speed; X_{11} – there is some blocking in the entry requiring elimination; X_{12} – ventilation conditions do not comply with operational requirements; Y_1 – the insignificant weakening of nodes fixation; Y_2 – the welded cracks within the contour; Y_3 – the even wear of equipment; Y_4 – allowable wear and deformation of nodes; Y_5 – cracks within the contour; Y_6 – allowable wear of connections; Y_7 – the impermissible wear and deformation of nodes and connections. Cracks in metal constructions beyond the contour; Y_8 – unfixed elements; Y_9 – any damages of wheel and guide vanes.

Multiplying the received value $Q(i, j)$ by a certain index taken from the Table 1, it is possible to specify the $Q(i, j)$ taking into account the quality for both MVN and MF elements. The Table was made on the basis of research of the aerodynamic

condition of mine «1/3 Novogrodivska», however the aerodynamic condition of other mines of the Ministry of Power Engineering and Coal Industry of Ukraine will hardly have big difference.

Conclusions. Thus, the method of calculation and determination of the rational operating MF modes was enhanced; the approach is different because it uses the coupled nonlinear dependences between pressure and the MF feed and air rates in the separate ventilation objects and because the mutual influence estimation criterion is applied.

Of course, the above mentioned method cannot solve the task of substantial increase of ventilation energy efficiency. The problem is multidimensional and requires the complex use of technical, organizational and analytical calculation methods. However, modeling of the aerodynamic condition of the mine vent system using this method, combined with implementation of organizational and technical decisions, will allow receive positive high-quality changes of ventilation, and enable to increase the energy efficiency of the MF work.

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About the authors

Bunko Tetiana Viktorivna, Doctor of Technical Sciences (D.Sc), Senior Researcher, Senior Researcher in the Department of Mineral Mining at Great Depths, Institute of Geotechnical Mechanics named by N. Poljakov of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IGTM, NAS of Ukraine), Dnipro, Ukraine, bunko2017@ukr.net

Shyshov Maksym Valeriiovych, Master of Science, Head of the Technical Development Department of Coal Production directorate DFEK Energy, Kyiv, Ukraine

Bokii Oleksandr Borysovych, Candidate of Technical Sciences (Ph.D.), Director by the Development of Industry, GE Renewable Energy, GE Ukraine, Kyiv, Ukraine

Belikov Anatoliy Serafymovych, Doctor of Technical Sciences (D.Sc), Professor, Head of the Safety of Vital Activity Department, Prydniprovsk State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Dnipro, Ukraine

Zhalilov Oleksandr Shamiliiovych, Candidate of Technical Sciences (Ph.D.), Chief Mechanical Engineer of the State Enterprise «Selidovugol», Selidovo, Ukraine, zhalilov.aleksandr@gmail.com

Kokoulin Ivan Yevhenovych, Candidate of Technical Sciences (Ph.D.), Senior Researcher, Senior Researcher in Department of Mineral Mining at Great Depths, Institute of Geotechnical Mechanics named by N. Poljakov of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IGTM, NAS of Ukraine), Dnipro, Ukraine, bunko2017@ukr.net

Про авторів

Бунько Тетяна Вікторівна, доктор технічних наук, старший науковий співробітник, старший науковий співробітник у відділі проблем розробки родовищ на великих глибинах, Інститут геотехнічної механіки ім. М.С. Полякова Національної академії наук України (ІГТМ НАН України), Дніпро, Україна, bunko2017@ukr.net

Шишов Максим Валерійович, магістр, начальник Департаменту з технічного розвитку Дирекції по видобутку вугілля ДТЕК ЕНЕРГО, Київ, Україна

Бокій Олександр Борисович, кандидат технічних наук, директор з розвитку бізнесу ТОВ «Джил Україна», Київ, Україна

Беліков Анатолій Серафимович, доктор технічних наук, професор, завідувач кафедри безпеки життєдіяльності, Придніпровська державна академія будівництва і архітектури, Дніпро, Україна

Жалілов Олександр Шамілійович, кандидат технічних наук, головний механік ДП «Селидіввугілля», Селидове, Україна, zhailov.aleksandr@gmail.com

Кокоулін Іван Євгенович, кандидат технічних наук, старший науковий співробітник у відділі проблем розробки родовищ на великих глибинах, Інститут геотехнічної механіки ім. М.С. Полякова Національної академії наук України (ІГТМ НАН України), Дніпро, Україна, bunko2017@ukr.net

Анотація. Розрахунок електроенергії на провітрювання шахт залежить від кількості вентиляторів головного провітрювання (ВГП), режимів їх роботи, взаємовпливу ВГП на вихідному струмені, якості вентиляційної мережі, коефіцієнту корисного використання повітря, що подається до шахти, і ряду інших чинників. Чинники ці вельми багатопланові, і для їх усунення потрібні різні методи і засоби: технічні, організаційні, багаточинникове моделювання тощо. Підвищення енергоефективності роботи ВГП є основною умовою вдосконалення провітрювання шахти. При здійснюванні багатовентиляторного провітрювання виникає непродуктивне «перетягання» вентиляційного струменю у бік потужнішого вентилятора і зниження тим самим ефективності роботи обох. Питання зниження взаємовпливу ВГП на вихідному струмені повітря і підвищення аеродинамічної якості вентиляційної мережі вивчені і враховуються недостатньо. Варіюючи у межах зони промислового використання продуктивністю і напором ВГП можна, не порушуючи вимог Правил безпеки у вугільних шахтах щодо швидкості повітря у об'єктах-споживачах, досягти оптимального співвідношення цих параметрів для ВГП, що розглядаються. Запропоновано метод розрахунку ефективних робочих режимів ВГП з урахуванням взаємозв'язку ВГП і ділянок-споживачів свіжого повітря у ШВМ і на основі критерію оцінки ступеню взаємовпливу ВГП. Показано, що старіння гірничих виробок, їх захаращеність, зношення елементів ВГП вносять певну похибку у вентиляційні розрахунки, і цей чинник необхідно враховувати. Удосконалено метод розрахунку і визначення раціональних режимів роботи ПЧ. Цей підхід відрізняється тим, що в ньому використовуються пов'язані нелінійні залежності між тиском і швидкістю подачі і витратою повітря в окремих вентиляційних об'єктах, а також тому, що застосовується критерій оцінки взаємного впливу. Таким чином, метод не може вирішити задачу суттєвого підвищення енергоефективності вентиляції. Проблема багатовимірної і вимагає комплексного використання технічних, організаційних і аналітичних методів розрахунку. Однак моделювання аеродинамічного стану шахтної вентиляційної системи з використанням цього методу в поєднанні з реалізацією організаційних і технічних рішень дозволить отримати позитивні якісні зміни вентиляції і дозволить підвищити енергоефективність роботи ПЧ.

Ключові слова: вентилятор головного провітрювання, зона промислового використання, аеродинамічний стан вентиляційної системи, енергоефективність.

Аннотация. Расход электроэнергии на проветривание шахт зависит от количества вентиляторов главного проветривания (ВГП), режимов их работы, взаимовлияния ВГП на исходящей струе, качества вентиляционной сети, коэффициента полезного использования подаваемого в шахту воздуха и ряда других факторов. Факторы эти весьма многоплановы, и для устранения их нужны разные методы и средства: технические, организационные, многофакторное моделирование и др. Повышение энергоэффективности работы ВГП является основным условием совершенствования проветривания шахты. При осуществлении многовентиляторного проветривания происходит непроизводительное «перетягивание» вентиляционной струи в сторону более мощного вентилятора и снижение тем самым эффективности работы обоих. Вопросы снижения взаимовлияния ВГП на исходящей струе воздуха и повышения аэродинамического качества вентиляционной сети изучены и учитываются недостаточно. Варьируя в пределах зоны промышленного использования производительностью и напором ВГП, можно, не нарушая требований Правил безопасности в угольных шахтах к скорости воздуха в объектах-потребителях, достичь оптимального соотношения этих параметров для рассматриваемых ВГП. Предложен метод расчета эффективных рабочих режимов ВГП с учетом взаимосвязанности ВГП и участков-потребителей свежего воздуха в ШВС и на основе критерия оценки степени

взаимовлияния ВГП. Показано, что старение горных выработок, их загроможденность, износ элементов ВГП вносят определенную погрешность в вентиляционные расчеты, и этот фактор необходимо учитывать. Усовершенствован метод расчета и определения рациональных режимов работы ПЧ. Этот подход отличается тем, что в нем используются связанные нелинейные зависимости между давлением и скоростью подачи и расходом воздуха в отдельных вентиляционных объектах, а также потому, что применяется критерий оценки взаимного влияния. Таким образом, метод не может решить задачу существенного повышения энергоэффективности вентиляции. Проблема многомерна и требует комплексного использования технических, организационных и аналитических методов расчета. Однако моделирование аэродинамического состояния шахтной вентиляционной системы с использованием этого метода в сочетании с реализацией организационных и технических решений позволит получить положительные качественные изменения вентиляции и позволит повысить энергоэффективность работы ПЧ.

Ключевые слова: вентилятор главного проветривания, зона промышленного использования, аэродинамическое состояние вентиляционной системы, энергоэффективность.

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