

煤矿瓦斯防治技术 国际研讨会论文集

Proceedings

*China International Conference on
Coal Mine Gas Control and Utilization*

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China University of Mining and Technology Press

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前 言

值此煤矿瓦斯防治技术国际研讨会召开之际,我们汇集了此次研讨会上各位代表的发言,编辑出版了《煤矿瓦斯防治技术国际研讨会论文集》奉献给大家。

本次研讨会以“依靠技术创新,强化瓦斯治理”为主题,结合淮南矿区长期以来瓦斯综合治理技术研究和经验,广泛交流国内外煤矿瓦斯防治的先进技术和经验,探讨解决瓦斯问题的新途径和新方法,为我国打好煤矿瓦斯治理和利用攻坚战提供支持。

研讨会先后收到国内外论文 20 多篇,作者大多数是来自世界主要产煤国家瓦斯防治领域的专家、学者和管理人员。他们紧紧围绕会议主题,各抒己见,畅所欲言,从理论与实践的结合上,提出许多颇有见地的观点和看法。这些论文涉及煤与瓦斯共采技术、煤与瓦斯突出防治和监测监控技术、煤矿瓦斯与粉尘爆炸防治技术、煤矿通风与低浓度瓦斯利用技术、煤矿安全风险评估、煤矿瓦斯治理与温室气体减排技术、煤矿瓦斯抽采的成功案例等七个方面。围绕这些议题所进行的研讨、阐发和交流,对于提高我国的瓦斯防治技术水平,进一步推动我国当前的瓦斯治理和利用工作,无疑有着重要的参考价值。

在此论文集的编辑过程中,有关单位和同仁给予了大力支持、帮助和关心,在此表示衷心的感谢!同时,由于我们的水平有限,加之时间仓促,论文集中难免有纰漏和不妥之处,敬请读者多多批评指正。

编 者
2008 年 10 月

Preface

In honor of the opening of China International Conference on Coal Mine Gas Control and Utilization, we have compiled and now publish papers of all speakers -- The Proceedings of China International Conference on Coal Mine Gas Control and Utilization, which will represent the achievements that we pool for this event.

Themed "Relying on Technological Innovation to Strengthen Mine Gas Control", and in connection with gas-related researches and experiences of Huainan Mining (Group) Co., Ltd., the conference will facilitate exchange of technologies and achievements from China and abroad and explore new approaches and methods to solve gas problems, providing support for enhancing mine gas control and utilization in China.

We have received more than 20 papers from main coal producing countries around the world, which are authored by experts, scholars and executives in the domain of coal mine gas prevention and control. Focusing on the Conference's theme, they have expressed their views freely and by combining theory with practice, raised a lot of thoughtful perspectives and ideas. The papers are related to the seven aspects as follows: mine gas drainage and co-extraction of coal and gas, monitoring and prevention of coal/gas outburst, technologies of prevention and control of gas/dust explosion and mine fire, technologies of mine ventilation and gas utilization, mine risk assessment, mine gas utilization and greenhouse gas reduction and success stories about mine gas drainage and utilization. Discussion, interpretation and exchange of views on these topics will be of great value in reference to the enhancement of China's technology of coal mine gas prevention and control and the further improvement of China's cause of coal mine gas control and utilization.

The organizations and individuals involved have been supportive, helpful and caring in the preparation of these proceedings and have all earned our sincere gratitude. Necessary to say, however, inadequacies and shortcomings are possible because of our limited knowledge as well as the short amount of time available to complete these proceedings. Comments and suggestions from the readership are welcome.

Editorial Committee
October, 2008

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袁 亮

(淮南矿业(集团)有限责任公司)

摘 要:针对深井高地应力、高瓦斯含量、低渗透率煤层群开采效率低和深部开采面临的安全技术问题难以突破的现状,提出煤与瓦斯共采新思路、新方法。本文揭示了采动影响区内顶板岩层裂隙的动态演化及采空区侧“竖向裂隙发育区”的形成规律、Y型通风方式下采空区的空气压力场分布和卸压瓦斯的流动规律,建立了留巷钻孔法替代巷道钻孔法抽采卸压瓦斯的煤与瓦斯共采的新理论、新方法,为今后低透气性高瓦斯煤层群的煤与瓦斯安全高效共采提供了科学可靠的技术途径和方法。

关键词:低透气性煤层,无煤柱,沿空留巷,留巷钻孔法,煤与瓦斯共采

1 引言

淮南矿区是我国构造复杂、高瓦斯、高地应力、低透气性煤层群煤矿的典型代表,煤层瓦斯含量很高($12\sim 26\text{ m}^3/\text{t}$),煤质极为松软(坚固性系数 $f=0.2\sim 0.8$),煤层透气性很低(渗透率为 0.001 mD),瓦斯压力很大(高达 6.2 MPa)。目前,淮南矿业集团大部分生产矿井的开采深度已达 $-700\sim -1\,000\text{ m}$,且开采深度正以每年 $20\sim 25\text{ m}$ 的速度增加,瓦斯涌出量以每年 $100\text{ m}^3/\text{min}$ 的速度递增,瓦斯含量梯度达 $4.61\text{ m}^3/100\text{ m}$ 以上。新建矿井首采区多在距地表 800 m 以下的深度。未来 10 年,煤与瓦斯突出威胁继续增加、软岩支护困难、采空侧小煤柱地压大等很多问题日趋严重,深部开采面临巨大的技术挑战;另一方面,瓦斯(煤层气)是害也是宝,它既是我国煤矿生产过程中的主要灾害,也是一种新型的洁净能源和优质化工原料,是 21 世纪的重要替代能源之一。近年来陆续出台的国家新的能源政策,已把瓦斯(煤层气)列为新的洁净能源。因此,开发利用瓦斯(煤层气),既可以充分利用地下资源,又可以改善矿井安全条件和提高经济效益,对缓解常规油气供应紧张状况、实施国民经济可持续发展战略、保护大气环境等均具有十分重要的意义。

因此,为了贯彻落实国家能源政策和实现煤矿安全高效开采的客观需求,必须立足淮南矿区煤层群开采条件,将高瓦斯、高地压、低透气性煤层群的技术难题等统一起来考虑,提出煤与瓦斯共采技术新思路:首采关键卸压层,沿首采面采空区边缘快速机械化构筑高强支撑体将回采巷道保留下来,形成无煤柱连续开采,实现全面卸压开采;在留巷内布置上下向高低位抽采钻孔直达卸压瓦斯富集区域,实现连续抽采卸压瓦斯与综采工作面采煤同步推进,实现高效的工业化煤与瓦斯共采,抽采的高、低浓度瓦斯分开输送到地面加以利用。

2 留巷钻孔法煤与瓦斯共采的基础理论

2.1 采动影响区内顶底板岩层裂隙的动态演化规律

煤层群首采关键卸压层开采后,采空侧冒落带岩体呈不规则堆积,沿工作面推进方向,采空侧

空隙分布呈“O”型,由于煤层气比重轻,气体上浮,采空区瓦斯易于富集在上部沿空留巷采动冒落空隙区(如图1中的Ⅰ区)。规则冒落带和裂隙带中顶板岩层产生卸压膨胀,存在竖向裂隙发育区(如图1中的Ⅱ区),该区域离层裂隙和竖向破断裂隙发育,横向和竖向裂隙贯通,并和不规则冒落带相连通,为围岩卸压瓦斯和本煤层工作面采空区积聚的瓦斯提供良好的储集场所。弯曲下沉带内煤体发生膨胀变形,且以离层裂隙为主,煤层的透气性显著增加,处于弯曲下沉带远程竖向卸压裂隙区(如图1中的Ⅲ区)的煤层中富含高压卸压瓦斯,煤层离层裂隙发育,为远程卸压抽采瓦斯提供了良好的通道。这些研究为卸压煤层气抽采钻孔的布置提供了理论依据。

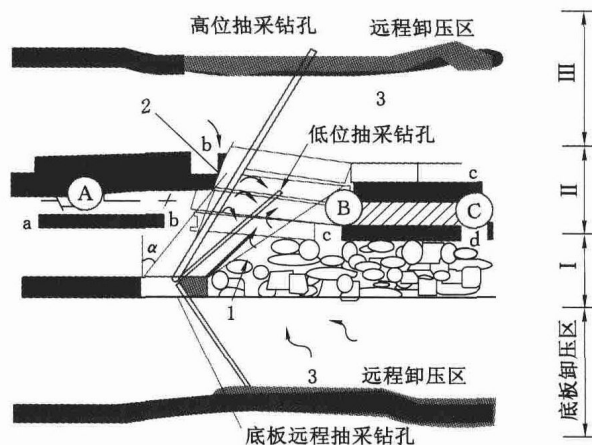


图1 采动覆岩移动“竖三带”、“横三区”和“裂隙三发育区”模型

I——冒落带; II——裂隙带; III——弯曲下沉带

A——煤壁支撑影响区; B——离层区; C——重新压实区; α ——顶板破断角

1——上部采空区顶区空隙区; 2——裂隙带内的竖向裂隙发育区; 3——远程卸压煤层离层发育区

2.2 留巷“Y”型通风方式下采空区的空气压力场分布和卸压瓦斯的流动规律

首采关键卸压层开采后,在采空区上部走向方向上存在一连通的竖向裂隙发育区。该竖向裂隙发育区的存在,为采空区积存的高浓度瓦斯和上覆卸压煤岩层的卸压瓦斯流动提供了流动通道和空间,是采空区高浓度瓦斯富集区域。采空区遗煤解吸瓦斯和上、下邻近煤层卸压瓦斯通过采动裂隙流向采空区,并在采空区及其顶板竖向裂隙区内聚集,形成高浓度瓦斯库。沿空留巷“Y”型通风工作面上、下巷均进风,工作面上隅角处于进风侧,解决了工作面上隅角瓦斯超限问题;工作面实际通过风量较“U”型通风低,工作面上、下两端压差小,工作面采空区漏风量小,采空区漏风携带的瓦斯量小;沿空留巷通过密实性支护形成较好的封闭区域,易于在工作面采空区形成高浓度瓦斯库。由于瓦斯密度小,采空区瓦斯积聚在工作面采空区上部及其上覆岩层卸压竖向裂隙区。

在沿空留巷采空区顶板卸压区,对于来自开采层和卸压层,通过采空区上覆岩层受采动影响形成的裂隙通道汇集到采空区上部及竖向带状裂隙区内的解吸游离瓦斯,在沿空留巷内由布置在卸压竖向带状裂隙区中的倾向抽采瓦斯钻孔进行抽采,卸压竖向带状裂隙区位于“Y”型通风工作面回风留巷的采空区顶板冒落带以上的离层裂隙带内。

如图2所示,在煤层开采后,将工作面的上巷采空区侧通过支护形成沿空留巷,作为采煤工作面回风巷,以工作面机巷(下巷)和材料巷(上巷)作为进风巷,并以工作面机巷作为主进风巷,进风量占工作面总进风量的 $2/3 \sim 3/4$,以材料巷作为辅助进风巷,进风量为工作面总进风量的

1/4~1/3,工作面回风由沿空留巷经边界回风巷或回风石门流出,建立沿空留巷“Y”型工作面通风系统。

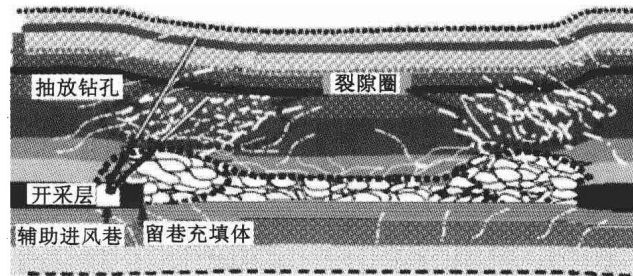


图2 留巷钻孔法卸压瓦斯抽采原理图

3 留巷钻孔法煤与瓦斯共采技术

3.1 留巷钻孔法煤与瓦斯技术原理

根据煤层赋存条件,如图1所示,首采关键卸压层,沿采空区边缘沿空留巷实施无煤柱连续开采,通过快速机械化构筑高强支撑体将回采巷道保留下来,沿空留巷与综采工作面推进同步进行,在留巷内布置钻孔抽采临近层卸压瓦斯,通过倾向钻孔抽采裂隙带顶(底)板卸压瓦斯和采空区富集瓦斯,工作面埋管抽采低位卸压瓦斯,防止采空区瓦斯大量向工作面涌出,以留巷替代多条岩巷抽采卸压瓦斯,大大减少岩巷和钻孔工程量,实现煤与瓦斯安全高效共采。该方法已成功应用于两淮矿区6个典型工作面,为今后深井低透气性高瓦斯煤层群煤与瓦斯共采及瓦斯利用提供了科学可靠的技术保障和示范。

3.2 留巷钻孔法瓦斯抽采技术

3.2.1 低位钻孔抽采采空区富集瓦斯技术

在沿空留巷中设置抽采瓦斯管道,各倾向抽采瓦斯钻孔与抽采瓦斯管道形成连通,构成采空区上部及环形裂隙圈内的解吸游离瓦斯通过倾向抽采瓦斯钻孔,并通过抽采瓦斯管进入瓦斯抽采系统。倾向抽采瓦斯钻孔布置的参数选取为:终孔位置距采煤工作面回风巷的水平距离为10~30 m,距煤层顶板法向距离8~10倍采高,并且不小于30 m;倾角小于采动卸压角,缓倾斜煤层钻孔倾角不大于80°,急倾斜煤层钻孔倾角不大于75°;施工时间在采煤工作面采后20 m以后,钻孔直径不小于90 mm;钻孔成组设置,每组数量不少于两只,钻孔偏向工作面的角度60~70°,抽采钻孔组间间距20~25 m;孔口的封孔长度在开采煤层顶板法向上大于采动规则冒落带的高度,且抽采钻孔法向封孔深度不小于5倍采高。

中近距离保护层开采工作面,由留巷回风巷中施工的抽采瓦斯钻孔可直接穿过上保护层,进行被保护层卸压瓦斯抽采。

3.2.2 高位钻孔抽采顶底远程卸压煤层瓦斯技术

淮南矿区煤层赋存为煤层群,主要为A、B、C三组煤层群,组间间距超过70 m,实践表明:淮南矿区首采关键卸压煤层后,老区开采上卸压层倾向卸压范围($K < 1.0$)向底板方向发展的深度达到100 m,新区开采上卸压层倾向卸压范围向底板方向发展的深度达到80 m。老区开采下卸压层倾向卸压范围($K < 0.9$ 区域)向顶板方向发展的高度达到130 m,新区开采下卸压层倾向卸压范围向顶板方向发展的高度达到150 m。

当远程卸压煤层与首采卸压层中间具有致密隔气性较好的泥岩,远程煤层中的高压煤层气不

能通过中间卸压层流入首采关键层的采动空间。传统的远程卸压煤层瓦斯卸压抽采方法是在首采卸压煤层开采前,在远程卸压煤层底板布置走向岩石巷道,在底板巷中每间隔一定距离设置钻场,在钻场中成组布置上向穿层抽采瓦斯钻孔,利用采动卸压进行远程卸压煤层瓦斯高效抽采。沿空留巷“Y”型通风方式的留巷为远程卸压煤层提供了抽采远程卸压煤层瓦斯抽采钻孔的布置空间,在留巷内布置上向穿层钻孔抽采上部远程卸压煤层瓦斯,下向穿层钻孔抽采下部远程卸压煤层瓦斯。

远程倾向穿层抽采瓦斯钻孔布置参数:倾角小于采动卸压角,缓倾斜煤层钻孔倾角不大于 80° ,急倾斜煤层钻孔倾角不大于 75° ,钻孔倾角一般取 $50^{\circ}\sim 65^{\circ}$;下向抽采瓦斯钻孔倾角一般取 $-50^{\circ}\sim -80^{\circ}$ 。施工时间在采煤工作面采后20 m以后,钻孔直径不小于90 mm;成组设置,每组数量不少于2只,钻孔偏向工作面的角度 $60^{\circ}\sim 90^{\circ}$,上向穿层抽采钻孔组间间距20~25 m,下向穿层抽采钻孔组间间距10~15 m。孔口端设套管,上向抽采钻孔孔口的封孔长度在开采煤层顶板法向上大于采动规则冒落带的高度,且抽采钻孔法向封孔深度不小于5倍采高,下向抽采钻孔的封孔长度不小于15 m。

3.2.3 留巷钻孔抽采瓦斯的保障技术

在沿空留巷段实施埋管抽采瓦斯技术,通过控制采空区埋管抽采管道口的数量和开启程度控制采空区瓦斯抽采量和抽采瓦斯浓度,改变采空区瓦斯流场和瓦斯浓度场分布,控制采空区瓦斯涌出,实现工作面的安全生产;采用沿空留巷“Y”型通风方式,可通过工作面上、下进风巷风量,将留巷排放瓦斯的浓度合理控制在安全值以下,提高了工作面瓦斯管理的安全可靠性。

3.3 留巷钻孔法瓦斯抽采效果考察

新庄孜煤矿52210工作面风巷的单孔试验考察结果表明:对倾角小于 25° 的低位钻孔,工作面回采过钻孔10 m后由于顶板冒落将钻孔切断,抽采瓦斯浓度和抽采瓦斯量迅速降低;对角度大于 55° 的高位钻孔,由于本风巷为二次留巷,大角度高位钻孔可能通过采动裂隙与上阶段采空区沟通,抽采瓦斯浓度低;倾向抽采钻孔角度在 $25^{\circ}\sim 55^{\circ}$ 之间时,工作面回采过钻孔位置20 m后抽采钻孔仍能保持较长时间的高浓度抽采,正常条件下单孔抽采纯瓦斯量约 $0.7\text{ m}^3/\text{min}$,个别钻孔可高达 $2.8\text{ m}^3/\text{min}$,采后钻孔稳定高浓度抽采时间约20~30天。

图3、图4为新庄孜煤矿52210工作面风巷下向穿层钻孔抽采瓦斯的单孔考察结果。由图3、图4可以看出,由于 B_8 煤层距 B_{10} 煤层层间距40 m,风巷下向穿层钻孔是在采后留巷中施工,基本上抽采 B_8 采动卸压瓦斯,单孔抽采瓦斯量级本在 $0.2\text{ m}^3/\text{min}$,最大约 $0.45\text{ m}^3/\text{min}$,钻孔稳定的高浓度瓦斯抽采时间约20~30天,抽采的瓦斯浓度高($60\%\sim 90\%$)。工作面回采100 m后,底部远程 B_8 卸压煤层的抽采瓦斯量 $6\sim 8\text{ m}^3/\text{min}$ 。

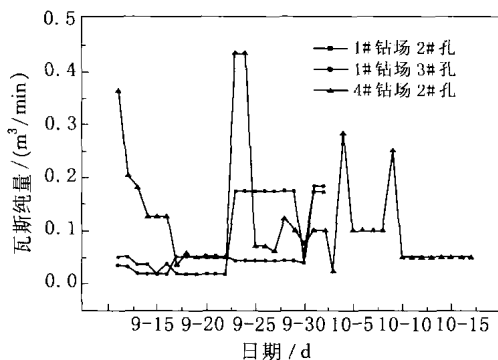


图3 单孔抽采瓦斯量情况图

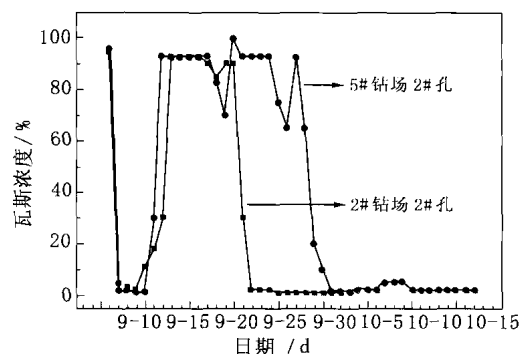


图4 单孔抽采瓦斯浓度情况图

由图 5 可以看出,虽然埋管抽采瓦斯的浓度在 10% 左右,由于埋管抽采瓦斯的混合量大($120\sim 150\text{ m}^3/\text{min}$,最大 $250\text{ m}^3/\text{min}$),改变了采空区流场结构,有效解决了工作面上隅角瓦斯积聚问题,是保证工作面安全生产的重要技术措施之一。

3.4 卸压瓦斯抽采及利用

在首采关键卸压层“Y”型通风工作面的沿空留巷内布置两路瓦斯抽采系统:一路与倾向高(低)位钻孔抽采管、下向穿层钻孔抽采管连通,接通永久抽采系统;一路与采空区埋管连通,接通井下移动抽采系统。各倾向抽采瓦斯

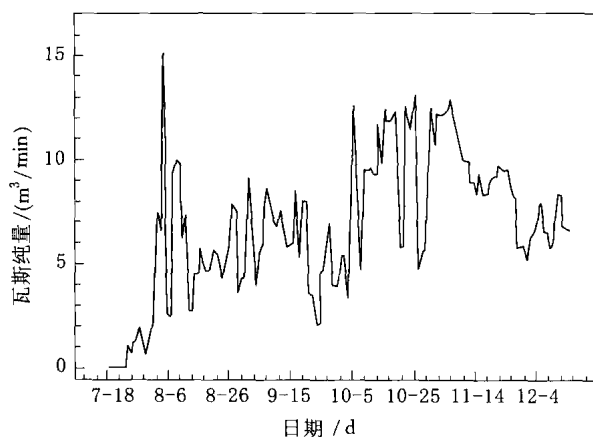


图 5 采空区埋管瓦斯抽采量变化图

钻孔连接到集气装置,通过软管连通瓦斯抽采管,进入瓦斯抽采系统,在抽采瓦斯钻孔与集气装置连接处设置控制闸阀,根据倾向顶、底穿层抽采瓦斯钻孔的单孔抽采瓦斯流量、浓度情况,决定控制闸阀的开启或关闭,进而控制抽采时间和抽采浓度,实现高浓度瓦斯连续抽采;工作面在充填体施工过程中,每间隔 10 m 预留一直径不小于 150 mm 抽采管道,通过三通和连接管接入抽采管道上,在每一分支管道上设置一个闸阀,通过闸阀控制同时埋管抽放的数量,在留巷内保持 6~8 个采空区抽采管道与埋管抽采主管道连通,抽放口与工作面上口的距离在 20~80 m 之间,其他的采空区抽采管道的闸阀关闭,当工作面瓦斯涌出量大或瓦斯涌出异常时,通过控制采空区埋管抽采管道口的数量和开启程度控制采空区瓦斯抽采量和抽采浓度,实现低浓度瓦斯单独连续抽采。

抽采的高浓度瓦斯(浓度 $\geq 30\%$)经永久抽采系统输送到地面可直接用于:民用燃气、工业锅炉燃气、瓦斯发电;抽采的低浓度瓦斯可用于:低浓度瓦斯(10%~20%)发电、锅炉瓦斯助燃($< 5\%$)、矿井风排瓦斯发电(0.1%~5%)等。高浓度瓦斯、低浓度瓦斯分开抽采,方便了瓦斯的进一步利用,提高了瓦斯利用效率。

4 结论

(1) 首采关键层开采后留巷采空侧顶板存在“楔形竖向裂隙发育区”,其位于采空区顶板冒落带以上的离层裂隙带内,是卸压瓦斯的富集区;

(2) 采用沿空留巷“Y”型通风方式,通过工作面上、下进风巷风量和留巷段埋管抽采量的调节,可以消除工作面瓦斯积聚,将留巷排放瓦斯的浓度合理控制在安全值以下;

(3) 留巷钻孔法连续抽采卸压煤层气技术创新了卸压开采抽采瓦斯的方法,通过上、下向穿层钻孔抽采瓦斯的单孔试验考察结果表明:留巷钻孔法替代巷道钻孔法抽采卸压瓦斯,巷道和钻孔工程量大大减少,效益和效率显著提高;

(4) 永久抽采系统抽采倾向高(低)位钻孔、下向穿层钻孔高浓度瓦斯,井下移动抽采系统抽采采空区低浓度瓦斯,方便了抽采瓦斯的进一步利用,提高了利用效率。

(5) 留巷钻孔法煤与瓦斯共采技术为解决高瓦斯、高地压、低透气性煤层群的煤与瓦斯共采难题提供了科学可靠的技术途径,为安全高效的工业化煤与瓦斯共采及瓦斯利用提供了新思路。

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作者简介:

袁亮,汉族,安徽金寨人,1960年6月生,工程硕士,正高级工程师,现任淮南矿业集团常务副总经理、总工程师。国家煤矿安全监察局安全生产专家成员、“一通三防”小组副组长,中国煤炭学会副理事长,中国岩石力学与工程学会常务理事,中国煤炭工业技术委员会常委。在全国公开刊物上发表论文60余篇,出版专著5部。主持完成国家、省部级重点科研项目43项,获省部级以上技术进步奖33项,其中获国家科技进步二等奖6项,省部级特等奖1项、一、二等奖15项。主持并形成具有淮南特点的煤与瓦斯共采专有技术和14项发明专利。

获“全国煤炭系统专业技术拔尖人才”、人事部“国家有突出贡献的中青年专家”、全国孙越崎科技教育基金能源科学技术奖“能源大奖”、安徽省重大科技成就奖。享受国务院特殊政府津贴。全国优秀科技工作者,煤炭工业杰出优秀科技工作者。

Borehole Drilling in Retained Entry for Co-extraction of Gas and Coal

Yuan Liang

(Huainan Coal Mining (Group) Co., Ltd.)

Abstract: A new concept and method for co-extraction of gas and coal is devised to address the low efficiency and safety problems in mining of deep coal seam groups with high ground stress, high gas content and low permeability. The paper brings to light the regularity of the dynamic evolution of fissures in the roof rock in the mining-affected zone and the development of “vertical fissure zone” in the gob and the regularity of the distribution of air pressure fields and the flow of pressure-relieved gas in the gob with Y-shaped ventilation, and establishes a new theory and method for draining pressure-relieved gas through boreholes drilled in the retained entry for co-extraction of gas and coal in stead of drilling in the upper and lower entries.

Key words: low-permeability coal seams, pillarless, entry retained along gob, borehole drilling in retained entry, co-extraction of gas and coal

1 Introduction

Huainan mining area is typical in Chinese coal mines with complicated geological structure, high gas emissions, high ground stress and low-gas permeability coal seams. Coal seams in the province have very high methane content ($12\sim 26\text{ m}^3/\text{t}$) with high pressure up to 6.2 Mpa, and the coal mass is extremely frail ($f=0.2\sim 0.8$) with a very low gas permeation rate of 0.001mD. At present, most of the active mining operations at Huainan Coal Mining Group are located at a depth of $-700\sim -1\,000\text{ m}$ and the mining depth is creasing at an annual rate of $20\sim 25\text{ m}$ with gas emissions increasing at a rate of $100\text{ m}^3/\text{min}$ annually and a gas content gradient over $4.61\text{ m}^3/100\text{ m}$. Most of the initial mining operations in newly-developed mines are located at a depth of 800 m below the surface. It is expected that, in the following ten years, coal/gas outburst hazards will continue to increase and problems, such as difficulty in supporting soft rock strata, high ground pressure on undersize pillars along the gob, etc., will worsen, thus creating great technical challenges for deep mining. Coal mine methane (CMM) or coal bed methane (CBM) is a major hazard in the coal mining in China and yet an important alternative, clean energy source for the 21st century and also a high-quality chemical material. In recent years, the Chinese government has updated national energy policies including CMM/CBM as a new, clean energy source. Therefore, to extract and utilize CMM/CBM is of great importance in fully tapping underground resources, improving mine safety and economic efficiency, easing the tightness of conventional oil and gas supply, ensuring the implementation of strategies for sustainable national economic growth and protecting the atmospheric environment.

In order to implement national energy policy and meet the objective requirement for safe and efficient coal mining, a new concept of co-extraction of coal and CMM has been developed, based on the conditions of mining coal seam groups in Huainan mining area, to address the technical problems of high gas emissions, high ground pressure and low gas permeability of the coal seam groups in a systems manner: to begin with minning the critical pressure-relieving seam and mechanically building high-strength supporting structures promptly along the edge of the gob of the initial working face to retain a production entry to allow pillarless continuous winning under pressure-relieved conditions; and then to drill upward and downward gas-drainage boreholes in the retained entry right through into the zone filled with pressure-relieved gas, thus allowing efficient co-extraction of gas and coal on a industrialized scale, with the gas output of different concentrations to be ducted separately to the surface for utilization.

2 Theoretic basis for borehole drilling in retained entrys for co-extraction of gas and coal

2.1 Regularity of dynamic evolution of fissures in roof and floor strata in mining-affected zones

When the critical pressure-relieving seam in a coal seam group is worked out in the first place, rocks in the caved zone along the gob would pile up irregularly and, along the direction of face advance, the distribution of voids on the gob side would be in an “O-shape” pattern. CBM is lighter than air in specific gravity and it is therefore easy to accumulate in the voids in the caved zone of the retained entry (see Zone1 in Fig. 1). The roof rock in the regular caved zone and fissured zone would expand when pressure is relieved, resulting in a vertical fissure developing

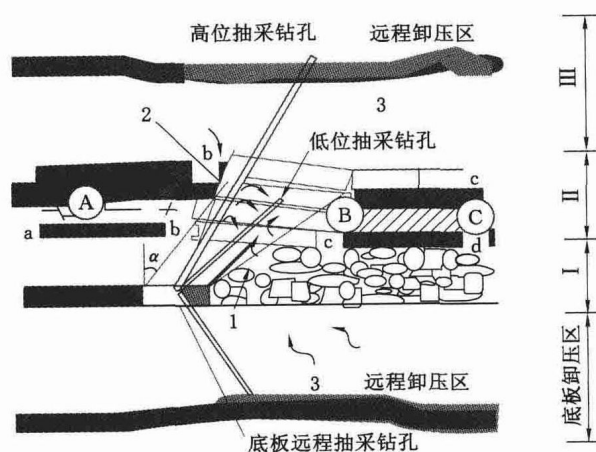


Fig. 1 Model of "three vertical zones", "three horizontal zones" and "three fissure zones" of mining-induced movement of overlying rock

I —caving zone; II —fissure zone; III —sagging zone

A—zone affected by rib supporting; B—zone of roof separation; C—recompacted zone; α —roof fracturing angle

1—fissured zone in upper gob; 2—vertical fissures in fissured zone;

3—roof separation in distant pressure-relieving seam

zone (see Zone 2 in Fig. 1), where both fissures in the roof separation and vertical fissures from rock failure have well developed, and vertical fissures cross the horizontal fissures and connect the irregular caved zone, providing an ample venue to accommodate the pressure-relieved gas from surrounding rock and gas from the gob of the face in the seam being worked. Coal mass in the sagging zone expands and deforms, containing mainly fissures in the roof separation, which causes enhanced gas permeability of the seam. Coal seams in the vertically fissured zone at the far-end of the sagging zone (see Zone 3 in Fig. 1) are filled with pressure-relieved gas and the roof separation contains well-developed fissures, which provides a fine passage for gas drainage under relieved pressure at the far-end. These findings form a theoretic basis for drilling boreholes for CBM drainage under relieved pressure.

2.2 Distribution of air pressure fields in the gob with Y-shaped ventilation and regularity of pressure-relieved gas flow

When the critical pressure-relieving seam is worked out, there exists a zone of well developed vertical fissures along strike above the gob, which provides a passage and space for the high-concentration gas from the gob and the pressure-relieved gas from the overlying coal/rock stratum. Gas desorbed from coal left in the gob and pressure-relieved gas from adjacent seams flow into the gob through mining-induced fissures and accumulates in the gob and the vertical fissures in the roof, forming a high-concentration gas reservoir. Both the upper and lower entries of the coal face with Y-shaped ventilation in the entry retained along gob side take in fresh air and the upper entry corner is located on the intake side of the face, which provides a solution to the problem of excess gas accumulation at the corner; the actual air quantity on the face is lower than that in U-shape ventilation, resulting in lower pressure differential between the two ends of the face, and lower air leakage from the gob with lower gas content in the air leaking from the gob; a well-sealed zone is formed by compact and tight supporting of the retained entry, which facilitates