



SoCalGas to Conduct Indoor Air Screening for Methane and Mercaptan at Homes near Aliso Canyon Storage Facility

- Consistent with the request of Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, a sampling of households will be invited to participate in a screening of indoor air for methane and mercaptan to provide reassurance for those returning home
- Outdoor air in the community is at typical background levels according to analysis of more than 3,500 outdoor air samples conducted by independent agencies.

LOS ANGELES - MARCH 11, 2016 – Consistent with the request of Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the Southern California Gas Company (Gas Co.) will offer indoor air screening to a sampling of households near the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility in response to questions from some residents about indoor air quality in the Porter Ranch area. The indoor air screening will seek to detect any level of methane or mercaptan that is higher than what would typically be expected inside a home. The screening will be conducted by an independent firm and results will be shared with the L.A. County Department of Public Health.

“It is vital that our residents have proper air quality sampling to determine whether their houses are safe and livable,” said Antonovich.

“I think the Gas Company offering to do a sampling of homes in Porter Ranch to confirm the indoor air is safe is a great idea,” said Paula Cracium, President of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council. “Families want to come home, but to a safe home and this will help give them the assurance their homes are safe and help us begin rebuilding our community.”

“We recognize that some residents, particularly those who have decided to remain in temporary housing, have questions about the air in their homes,” said Gillian Wright, SoCalGas vice president of customer services. “We strongly believe that our customers and neighbors in Porter Ranch deserve peace of mind in knowing the air is normal and we are taking action to enable a smooth transition back to their homes and neighborhoods.”

SoCalGas will invite 75 randomly selected residents in the Porter Ranch community to participate in the indoor air screening. The indoor air screening will be performed by a third-party contractor. The screening will be performed under the direction of a California registered Professional Engineer, and will utilize a flame ionization detector to evaluate any detectable levels of methane, and Tedlar bags to capture indoor air “grab samples.” Methane is the primary constituent and best indicator of any natural gas present in an environment. The company will also be testing for any presence of mercaptan, the odorant that is injected into natural gas as a safety measure. Mercaptan is what gives methane its sulfur

smell. The screenings will be conducted in each accessible room of the house, and results will be provided to residents within one week of the screening.

Since October 30, 2015, air quality and health agencies, including the South Coast Air Quality Monitoring District, the California Air Resources Board, The Los Angeles County Department of Health and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment have all independently collected and analyzed more than 3,500 outdoor air samples in the Porter Ranch area. Recent and ongoing tests confirm that the outdoor air in the neighborhood has completely returned to typical background levels. The leaking well was sealed nearly a month ago. The California Air Resources Board and the South Coast Air Quality Management continue to provide near-real-time methane monitoring that is available [here](#).

Throughout this event, the Los Angeles County Department of Health has consistently reported that no long-term health effects are expected due to the leaking well and any short-term symptoms that were associated with odorants used in methane would go away once the leak was stopped. The leak was stopped on February 11, and the well was permanently sealed on February 18, 2016.

SoCalGas will begin making random calls seeking homeowner approval for the tests beginning Friday, March 11. Screenings are scheduled to begin on Monday, March 14.

Helping residents who relocated return home as seamlessly as possible is one of the [five commitments](#) SoCalGas made to explain and emphasize the company's dedication to restoring trust and continuing support for the community.

Visit www.alisoupdates.com for the latest news on Aliso Canyon.

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About SoCalGas: [Southern California Gas Co.](#) has been delivering clean, safe and reliable natural gas to its customers for more than 145 years. It is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, providing service to 21.6 million consumers connected through 5.9 million meters in more than 500 communities. The company's service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles throughout central and Southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border. SoCalGas is a regulated subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE: SRE), a Fortune 500 energy services holding company based in San Diego.

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