



SoCalGas Releases Results of Porter Ranch Indoor Air Screening

Indoor air screening data suggest methane and mercaptan results well below levels of concern; no further testing is warranted.

LOS ANGELES – March 17, 2016 – Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) today released results of indoor air screening in a sampling of homes in Porter Ranch. According to Geosyntec Consultants Inc. (Geosyntec), the third party expert contracted to do the testing, the screening and laboratory results show that the level of methane detected in indoor air in the homes sampled is well below California EPA’s screening value, and consistent with normal indoor air levels. Additionally, mercaptan was not detected in the indoor air. According to Geosyntec’s report, no further testing is warranted.

“Consistent with the thousands of air quality samples that have been collected outdoors, our indoor screening found that methane levels inside homes were within normal ranges, and any odorants that could be responsible for short-term symptoms were not detected at all,” said Gillian Wright, SoCalGas vice president for customer services. “We recognize that some residents, particularly those staying in temporary housing, had questions about indoor air quality, and we hope this expert screening provides reassurance to the residents of communities near Aliso Canyon.”

The objective of the indoor air screening was to determine if methane and natural gas odorants were present in homes in concentrations that could warrant further evaluation. The screening was completed on March 14 through 16 in more than 70 homes throughout the Porter Ranch community. All screenings for methane were found to be well below levels that would warrant further evaluation. In addition, no natural gas odorants (mercaptans) were detected in any sample.

Methane screening was conducted using a handheld flame ionization detector. Measurements were taken in all accessible rooms, garages and in the outdoor air at each residence. In addition to field screening for methane, samples were collected at each residence in Tedlar® bags for lab analysis for any odorants or sulfur compounds.

Since October 30, 2015, air quality and health agencies, including the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the California Air Resources Board, The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, have all independently analyzed more than 4,700 outdoor air samples in the Porter Ranch area. Recent and ongoing tests confirm that the outdoor air in the neighborhood has completely returned to normal. The leaking well was sealed nearly a month ago. The California Air Resources Board and the South Coast Air Quality Management District continue to provide near-real-time methane monitoring that is available [here](#).

Throughout this event, the Los Angeles County Department of Public 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 the natural gas would go away once the leak was stopped. The leak was stopped on February 11, and the well was confirmed permanently sealed on February 18, 2016.

In addition to the indoor air screening, SoCalGas continues assessing and cleaning all reports of brown spots on the exterior of more than 200 homes, and has completed cleaning at four public parks, private schools, and community playgrounds. More than 26,000 air filtration systems have been installed in nearly 9,000 homes, schools and businesses.

To reassure residents about the safety of the facility, SoCalGas is monitoring each well at Aliso Canyon using infrared camera technology that can instantly detect any leaks. In addition, 18 wells at Aliso Canyon have been taken offline and will be fully inspected and tested before they are put back into service.

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.

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About Southern California Gas Co: [Southern California Gas Co.](#) (SoCalGas) 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.