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November 19, 2015

Bret Lane, Chief Operating Officer
Southern California Gas Company
555 West 5th Street
Los Angeles, California 90013

RE: NATURAL GAS LEAK AT ALISO CANYON STORAGE FIELD

Dear Mr. Lane:

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is issuing the following Public Health Directive to the Southern California Gas Company:

Southern California Gas Company should continue the abatement process to characterize and repair the subject gas leak, and eliminate odorous emissions, on an expedited basis in consultation with the appropriate regulatory agencies. All mitigation plans should cite public health protection as the highest priority.

In the interim, Southern California Gas Company is to offer free, temporary relocation to any area residents affected by odors from the Aliso Canyon site. Please find attached our Preliminary Environmental Assessment on this matter. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Angelo J. Bellomo, REHS, QEP
Deputy Director for Health Protection
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

AJB/

Attachment

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT PUBLIC HEALTH
BUREAU OF HEALTH PROTECTION
5050 Commerce Drive, Baldwin Park, CA 91706
Phone: (626) 430-5100
Website: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh

PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT
Natural Gas Leak from Aliso Canyon Storage Field, Southern California Gas Company

11-19-15

Note: On October 28, 2015, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) was asked by the Office of Emergency Management to assess whether conditions at the subject site could be adversely affecting the health of nearby residents. Based on review of available environmental and health data, DPH has prepared this Preliminary Environmental Health Assessment.

Background: On October 23, 2015, a natural gas leak was discovered by Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas) at the Aliso Canyon Storage Field. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH) was notified on 10.28.2015. Odors have been affecting residents in the Porter Ranch area. LADPH attended a community meeting hosted by SoCal Gas. LA County Fire Department was also in attendance. The community meeting focused on exposure to methane gas, and mercaptans which are odorants added to natural gas. LADPH advised that methane gas itself poses little direct health threat upon inhalation in an outdoor space. Mercaptans, however, do pose a health threat to the community, including short-term neurological, gastrointestinal, and respiratory symptoms that may result from inhalation.

Problem Identification: Daily complaints are being received by LADPH from neighboring Porter Ranch residents regarding strong odors from the Aliso Canyon site. Over 200 odor complaints have also been logged by the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Common health complaints include nausea, dizziness, vomiting, shortness of breath, and headaches. Complaints are associated with the detection of sulfur-type odors. These health complaints are consistent with inhalational exposure to mercaptans. It should be understood that odors alone can be directly responsible for health effects, and that these health effects currently reported by area residents are consistent with exposure to mercaptans at the odor threshold. Correspondence from SoCal Gas on 11.18.15 indicates that the process to cap and repair this leak may take several months.

Potential Other Sources of Exposure: None.

Potentially Affected Population: The site is adjacent to residential properties in the Porter Ranch neighborhood. These exposures do not constitute an immediate danger to life, and permanent or long-term health effects are not expected. Daily, short-term symptoms are expected to continue, as long as the odors remain.

Assessment: SoCal Gas has been addressing the problem from a technological standpoint since its inception. SoCal Gas has indicated that the problem is very complex, and requires a complex solution.

SoCal Gas is not able to provide a timeline for the amelioration of odors in the residential areas. Odors are causing significant symptoms in some area residents. These symptoms are expected to persist as long as the odors persist. Solutions to protect the public's health include eliminating the odorous emissions, or offering temporary relocation assistance to affected persons in the area.

Recommendations:

(1) SoCal Gas should continue the abatement process to repair the leak. Odor elimination and public protection should be the highest priorities in the development of all mitigation plans.

(2) LADPH will issue a directive to SoCal Gas to continue the abatement of odorous emissions in the area on an expedited basis, and, in the interim, to offer free, temporary relocation to any area residents affected by odors from the Aliso Canyon site.

(3) The regulatory agencies should continue to explore appropriate interventions to expedite the characterization and repair the leak.

Cyrus Rangan MD FAAP ACMT

Dr. Cyrus Rangan, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.C.M.T.
Director, Bureau of Toxicology and Environmental Assessment

Angelo J. Bellomo, REHS, QEP
Deputy Director for Health Protection