

DOCKETED

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PORTER RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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Board President

Joint Agency Workshop on Energy Reliability
May 22, 2017

*The opinions expressed herein are those of the
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council, and not
necessarily those of the City of Los Angeles*

August 2016 Workshop



We urged you to ask the question:

How should the gas and electric systems be configured in order to operate safely and reliably without Aliso Canyon?

Since then...

- *It is now about a year later, and yet no one is asking that question!*
- *From our perspective, this disaster was a warning shot across the bow.*
- *In fact, we submit to you that we can only attain energy reliability after we eliminate the need for Aliso Canyon*
- *With the little time I have, I want to walk you through five facts that lead us to this conclusion*

1

- *In October 2015, **ONE** well in a field of 115 wells ruptured resulting in the largest known methane gas release in US history*
- *The failure of one well resulted in an emergency declaration, development of new State regulations, the expenditure of millions of dollars for State cost, and tied up the staff times of countless State regulatory agencies*

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- *The gas company retained the services of **TWO** national engineering firms (AECOM and FLUOR) to help them figure out how to plug the well*
- *Neither of them had any clue on how to control this ruptured well*
- *They talked about heavy liquid injections, capturing the gas and containing it, and other ideas...*
- *Nothing worked!*

3

- *The gas company tried **THREE** times to inject liquid into the well to stop the gas*
- *Each time, they injected chemicals down the well casing only to have them be ejected back into the air with the gas*
- *We **STILL** do not know what chemicals they used and what we were exposed to*

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- *It took the Gas Company and all its consultants **FOUR** months to drill a relief well 8,000 feet down to intercept the bottom of the well and inject cement to stop the gas*
- *In these four months, thousands of people were forced out of their homes... two entire schools had to be relocated for the entire academic year... and local businesses were economically devastated*

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- *This is the least discussed fact...*
- *This entire fiasco was caused by the release of “only” **FIVE** billion cubic feet (Bcf) of methane gas.*
- *While the field went down from 85 Bcf to 15 Bcf during the four months, only 5 Bcf of gas were released, while the rest was sold by the Gas Co. to its customers*
- *All the environmental damage caused by this disaster, resulted from the release of only FIVE Bcf of gas.*
- *There are 15 Bcf still sitting in the field.*

It is not a matter of *if*, but *when*...

- *The State warns us that a major seismic event in the region is not a matter of IF, but only a matter of WHEN!*
- *This entire disaster was caused by the rupture of one well... releasing only 5 Bcf of gas... that took four months to stop.*
- *What if an event caused the rupture of two wells? Four wells? 20 wells?*
- *NO ONE will be able to do anything to stop it, and people will flee their homes AGAIN*
- *Is this what you define as “reliability”?*

We ask again:

- *Recognize that urban underground gas storage facilities are a ticking time bomb*
- *Begin the process of changing the system to operate safely and reliably without them.*
- *Only then will we achieve true energy reliability*
- *Only then will we be able to go back to living our lives*



THANK YOU!