

DOCKETED

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Issam Najm,
President

Susan Gorman-Chang,
Vice President

Andrew Krowne,
Treasurer

Gabriel Khanlian,
Secretary

David Balen,
Signer

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Jennifer Milbauer

December 13, 2017

Ms. Patricia Wagner
Chief Executive Officer
Southern California Gas Company
555 West Fifth Street
Los Angeles CA 90013-1037

Dear Ms. Wagner:¹

On December 6, the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) sent you the attached letter of concern regarding the intentional gas release from your Aliso Canyon facility during the evening of December 1. In the letter, we posed specific questions about the release and about your company's operational protocols at the facility.

Yet, you could not take the time or make the effort to respond to our questions. Instead, you simply resorted to the standard approach of having the company's public affairs manager send a reply letter –and a condescending one at best– on your behalf (attached); a letter that provided no useful information and made no attempt to answer our questions or address our concerns.

We respectfully ask you to provide answers to our questions, which are repeated herein:

1. *How many tons of methane, mercaptans, and who-knows-what-else were intentionally released that evening to cause a spike 25 times the background methane levels in the air all the way at the fenceline?*
2. *Why is it that you make no attempt to capture that gas and dispose of it safely and legally instead of just venting it into the air and hope no one notices?*
3. *Why is it that you did not issue a community notice until after residents contacted you about the spike and demanded an explanation?*
4. *How many other times did you vent gas into the air as part of your "maintenance" work at the facility without informing the community?*
5. *On what basis do you claim that this intentional release does not present a health risk to the community?*

¹ This letter represents the opinion of the PRNC, and not necessarily that of the City of Los Angeles.

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

If you do not believe that the community deserves answers to these simple questions, then it is clear to us that SoCalGas and its management have no interest in the welfare of our community and that of the thousands of people who call it home. Our only hope then would be that our City, County, and State agencies that empower you would finally see the error of your ways and act on it.

Respectfully,
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council



Issam Najm, Ph.D., P.E.
President

encl: PRNC Letter to SoCalGas dated December 6, 2017
Response letter from SoCalGas to PRNC dated December 8, 2017

cc: Mr. Kevin De Léon, President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
Mr. Anthony Rendon, Speaker of the Assembly, California State Assembly
Mr. Henry Stern, California State Senator, District 27
Mr. Dante Acosta, California Assemblyman, District 38
Ms. Nancy McFadden, Executive Secretary to California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Mr. Michael Picker, President, California Public Utilities Commission
Dr. Robert Weisenmiller, Chair, California Energy Commission
Mr. Edward Randolph, Energy Division Director, CPUC
Ms. Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Supervisor
Mr. Mitchell Englander, Los Angeles City Councilman, District 12
Mr. Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Mr. Angelo Bellomo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Dr. Jo Kay Ghosh, South Coast Air Quality Management District



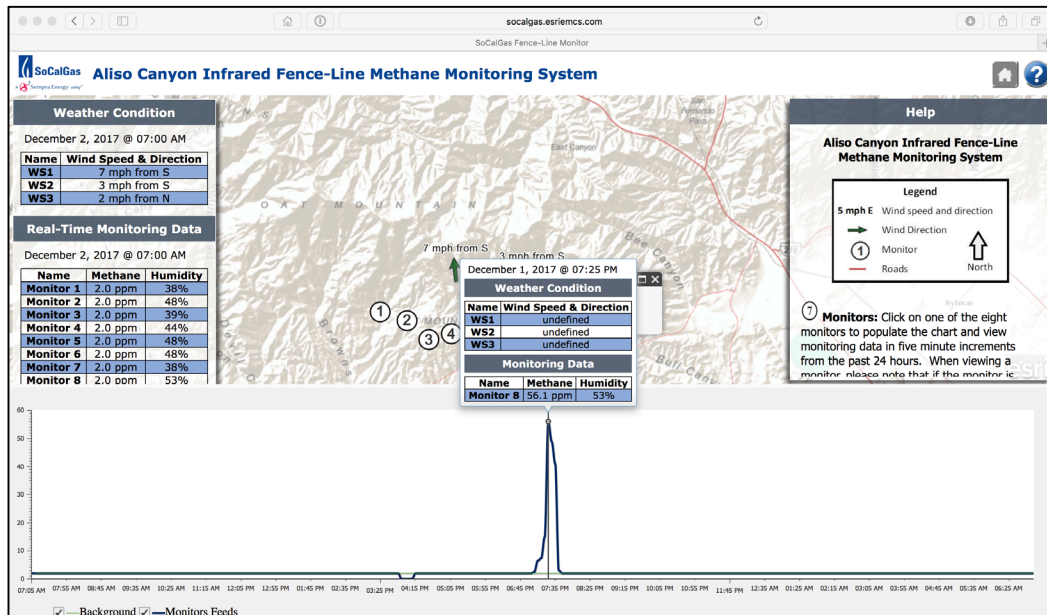
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- Hassan Memarian
- Jennifer Milbauer

December 6, 2017

Ms. Patricia Wagner
Chief Executive Officer
Southern California Gas Company
555 West Fifth Street
Los Angeles CA 90013-1037

Dear Ms. Wagner:¹

On the morning of December 2, the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) and residents of the North San Fernando Valley received notice from the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) explaining the prior evening’s high spike in methane levels recorded by SoCalGas’ fenceline monitors around the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility, and the community’s independent methane monitor. The notice explained that this spike was caused by “...*planned venting associated with maintenance work being conducted at the facility.*” The notice goes on to state that “*The...elevated methane levels...do not present a health or safety risk to the community.*” A screenshot of the fenceline monitor is shown below to give you a sense of the magnitude of this spike.



The PRNC is greatly disappointed in SoCalGas’ continued callous disregard to the health and wellbeing of our community and the very same people that pay your bills. The fact that you find it acceptable to intentionally dump a poisonous gas into the air we breathe and state it as

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Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

simply part of the normal course of doing business, and then dismiss your action as having no impact on the community, is utterly inexcusable.

How many tons of methane, mercaptans, and who-knows-what-else was intentionally released that evening to cause a spike 25 times the background methane levels in the air all the way at the fenceline?

Why is it that you make no attempt to capture that gas and dispose of it safely and legally instead of just venting it into the air and hope no one notices?

Why is it that you did not issue a community notice until after residents contacted you about the spike and demanded an explanation?

How many other times did you vent gas into the air as part of your “maintenance” work at the facility without informing the community?

On what basis do you claim that this intentional release does not present a health risk to the community?

We know that you will not provide any meaningful answers to our questions, and you will continue to do whatever you want at this facility with no regard to the community’s wellbeing. We are sure you are comforted by the fact that the fenceline monitors that you installed only after a legal settlement with the County of Los Angeles will be removed in less than two years when the settlement term expires. At that time, *if there are no monitors to record it, was there really a gas release?* We will never know.

To all the City, County, and State officials receiving this letter, how much more of this will it take for you to say “enough is enough!”, and demand the closure of this facility sooner rather than later?

Respectfully,
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council



Issam Najm, Ph.D., P.E.
President

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Ms. Kathryn Barger, Los Angeles County Supervisor
Mr. Mitchell Englander, Los Angeles City Councilman, District 12
Mr. Angelo Bellomo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Dr. Jo Kay Ghosh, South Coast Air Quality Management District



December 8, 2017

Issam Najm
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council
P.O. Box 7337
Los Angeles, CA 91327-7337

Dear Dr. Najm—

Thank you for your letter to Patti Wagner, dated December 6, 2017. I am responding on her behalf.

The health and safety of the communities we serve are of the highest priority to SoCalGas.

To be clear: methane observed on the fence-line monitors on December 2 did not present a health or safety risk to the community. Nevertheless, we followed the protocol established with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and notified the community about the reading.

As part of our commitment to improve communications with the members of the community, SoCalGas proactively launched an interactive, online tool that allows members of the public to view data from the network of methane monitors that have been installed at the company's Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility.

We regularly provide timely online reports to provide the community with information about the readings. In addition, we've established a protocol, approved by SCAQMD, to notify residents when readings at one or more of the monitors exceed 10 parts per million (ppm) for 20 minutes.

We believe the community notification system is one of the best ways to keep the community informed of planned and unplanned activities at Aliso Canyon. Since the system was launched, we have used it consistently—including December 2—to keep the public informed of events at the field, including many times when public reporting was not required.

We appreciate your assistance in encouraging community members to sign up for the notification system so that we can reach as many residents as possible when necessary. To sign up for notifications, please refer residents and interested stakeholders to www.socalgas.com/AlisoUpdates.

We will continue to keep the community informed and remain committed to a positive, constructive dialogue.

Regards,
David Meza
Public Affairs Manager, San Fernando Valley

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