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Save Porter Ranch Comments on September 30 Indoor Air Quality Workshop

Attached is the written form of the oral comments given at 9/30 Indoor Air Quality Workshop.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



September 30, 2020

California Energy Commission
1516 9th St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on Indoor Air Quality Workshop

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

Save Porter Ranch respectfully submit the following comments on Indoor Air Quality Docket # 19-BSTD-03.

Save Porter Ranch is a local grassroots organization with mission to protect, preserve and enhance the communities from the impact of gas and oil operation by building community awareness.

In 2015, our communities faced worst gas blowout in US history from Southern California Gas company's Aliso Canyon Gas storage facility in North San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles. 23,000 people evacuated.

We are exposed to not only methane gas, but chemicals including benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, Xylene, formaldehyde, crude oil, and many more toxic chemicals, which is not disclosed. Few times, we were advised to stay inside of house to avoid getting oily residue spewed in the community for the effort to stop the blowout, which was not successful.

Community including me suffered headache, nosebleed, cough, rushes, respiratory issues, heart palpitation and many more from the gas blowout. It is known that facility has been leaking and emitting for decades and it is still leaking. Many residents developed asthma, heart issues, we have cancer cluster, rare types of cancer, cancer without family history. It became Public health crisis.

Since we exposed to the chemicals constantly for long time living next to the gas facility, now we become sensitive population. We know what gas does to our health. So as environmental justice communities. Due to higher prevalence of existing conditions such as asthma, we are more vulnerable to harm resulting from pollution exposure once we become exposed.

Outdoor air quality in our neighborhood is no good as long as the Aliso Canyon facility is operating, It is crucial to be able to breathe clean air at least inside our home for our well-being.

Recent finding in the studyⁱ is shocking. The fact that we not only exposed to the gas, chemicals, carcinogen outdoor, but we expose Nitrogen Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Formaldehyde in our home by cooking on gas stove burning same gas we are poisoned, and causing 2-5 times, sometimes 100 times higher than outdoor air pollution level, exceeding EPA's standard outdoor guideline. Gas stove pollution should be not ignored nor downplayed.

Problem is, we don't have any regulation for indoor air quality. Indoor air quality is so under looked in the building/energy code. CEC has a statutory mandate to address indoor air quality when developing its building energy efficiency.

We need more stringent guideline for Indoor air pollution measurement for Carbon Monoxide and Nitrogen Dioxide. Current standard of 100ppb of Nitrogen Dioxide should be updated to current data when health effects can occur for asthmatic children with exposure to as little as 11ppb of Nitrogen Dioxide indoors.

CEC should align its ventilation standard with the most up-to-date and most protective indoor quality guidelines issues by air quality regulators. CEC should set ventilation standard to reduce Nitrogen Dioxide pollution below a threshold that protect public health for most sensitive population.

None the less, CEC should put regulation to ban gas stove hookup in new construction for 2022 code cycle. Study says delaying the move to all-electric new construction till next cycle would result in additional 3 million tons of carbon emission by 2030. It is not the time to argue whether people like gas stove or not, it is “a must” to protect public health.

Kyoko Hibino
Director | Co founder
Save Porter Ranch

ⁱ Brady Anne Seals & Andee Krasner, Health Effects From Gas Pollution (2020)
<https://rmi.org/insight/gas-stoves-pollution-health/>