

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Gary Toebben

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CEC/CPUC/ISO Action Plan to Preserve Gas & Electric Reliability

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

April 21, 2016

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-29
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Energy Commission:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, I'd like to submit the following comments on the CEC/CPUC/ISO Action Plan to Preserve Gas & Electric Reliability.

Aliso Canyon has a direct impact on electric grid reliability in our region. Most of the electricity consumed by Southern Californians is produced by power plants fueled by natural gas. Aliso Canyon is a direct source of energy for many of those power plants. Today, natural gas accounts for more than half of all the energy used in the homes and businesses in Southern California. And because California imports most of its natural gas via interstate pipelines, it is essential that we have regional storage facilities.

Reliable electric service for the businesses we represent is crucial. In the City of Los Angeles, as well as much of Southern California, that reliability is largely based on the flexibility provided by natural gas stored in Aliso Canyon. This has been the case for decades, but since California placed a greater emphasis on renewable energy, natural gas from Aliso Canyon is one of the major sources of energy to fill the gaps when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. A recent report by Beacon Economics found that the loss of revenue a business suffers from a blackout averages \$17-20,000 per hour. Blackouts are not just an inconvenience, they are a financial disaster.

The two messages I want to convey from the business community in addressing the need for energy reliability are safety and urgency. It is vital that everyone work together to safely expedite the restoration of all or parts of Aliso Canyon so that electrical and natural gas reliability is better protected while the process continues on the inspection and certification of every well and the capping of those that could pose a risk.

Dark businesses and dark homes could be the unfortunate result if we do not do everything humanly possible to safely restore the use of all or a large portion of Aliso Canyon for natural gas storage. Without the reliability that the natural gas in Aliso Canyon provides to our electrical system, elected officials throughout the City and County of L.A. will be faced with armies of residents and businesses asking that their governments protect their geographical areas from rolling blackouts.

The safe, continued operation of the Aliso Canyon facility is absolutely necessary to providing a reliable supply of energy for our homes and businesses and our region's economic prosperity. We must all collectively pursue a path that is both safe and expeditious and work to avoid energy blackouts that will stall our economy and threaten our quality of life.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben
President & CEO