

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Utility Workers of Union of America Local 483
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On Joint Agency Workshop on Aliso Canyon Action Plan

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



LOCAL 483
UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 16-IEPR-02
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.ca.gov

Re: Utility Workers Union of America Local 483 Comments on the California Energy Commission Docket No. 16-IEPR-02: Joint Agency Workshop on Aliso Canyon Action Plan for Local Energy Reliability for Winter of 2016 to 2017

Dear Commissioners and State Agency Representatives:

On August 26, 2016, the California Energy Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, California Independent System Operator and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (collectively, state agencies) held a Joint Agency Workshop on the Aliso Canyon Action Plan for Local Energy Reliability for Winter of 2016 to 2017 as part of the 2016 Integrated Energy Policy Report (2016 IEPR) Update proceeding. As President of Local 483 of the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA; AFL-CIO), I appreciate the opportunity to provide these written comments.

As we turn our focus to the winter heating season when peak demands for natural gas are highest, the critical importance of the Aliso Canyon storage facility (Aliso Canyon) to regional energy reliability is more real than ever before. Many don't realize that withdrawals from Aliso Canyon played a vital role in meeting customer demand for many winters over decades, including this past winter when the natural gas leak was active. Our invaluable labor workforce worked diligently to keep the facility operating safely.



LOCAL 483
UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

Without Aliso Canyon, SoCalGas's ability to meet demand is significantly reduced, increasing the risk of natural gas shortages for an entire region. This could potentially affect electric generators, hospitals, large manufacturers, refineries and other large users. The result would be a negative impact on the region's economy and working families.

Local 483 has serious concerns about calls to permanently shut down Aliso Canyon by some Porter Ranch residents and environmental activists. Having Aliso Canyon operations offline not only threatens energy reliability, it causes concerns and uncertainty for our union members and their families. The hard working Union employees at Aliso Cyn. are dedicated to always providing safe operations, not only for the community but also for their personal safety and the well-being of their families. During the leak incident, we had **zero** lost work days and/or accidents at the facility, which speaks to the professionalism and hard work of our union members, even in times of crisis.

Our dedicated union members have been working hard to complete all the necessary work at Aliso Canyon timely and safely, to restore injections and normal operations as soon as possible. In conclusion, the stakes are too high for our workforce and their families if Aliso Canyon is permanently shut down. State agencies must act with urgency to inspect and assess the Aliso Canyon storage facility, and accelerate a meaningful return to service as quickly as can be safely accomplished, for all families in the Region.

Sincerely,
U.W.U.A. Local 483
President
Robin Downs