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Opposing statement to possible reopening of Aliso Canyon gas facility

I would like to register my opposition to the reopening of the Southern California Gas storage facility at Aliso Canyon.

Here are my major reasons why:

I live 3.18 miles as the crow flies from the well SS-25 that suffered the blowout in late October 2015. Within a couple weeks after that, I started feeling fatigued, having hay fever-like symptoms, having a strange metallic taste in my mouth that I could not get rid of through any means. My husband, who keeps in great shape, started getting aches and "weird feelings" after riding his bicycle in the Porter Ranch area.

On November 19, we left town for ten days, staying in Northern California. We both noticed that we were feeling better within a few days. But shortly after our return to the Porter Ranch area, our symptoms had returned.

Our daughter, who was 18 years old at the time, was here for her college winter break for three-and-a-half weeks in December/January. During that time, she suffered at least three migraine headaches, a condition she didn't have while living in Humboldt County.

When we drove her back in mid-January, my symptoms were in full force, along with conjunctivitis. We spent five days up north, and I noticed my eyes were noticeably less red and were definitely less sore during this time. We returned on a Tuesday evening, and by Wednesday morning, my eyes were sore again from the conjunctivitis.

In February, my husband was so concerned with a pain in his kidney area that he saw a doctor. He was told his blood pressure was high and after a follow-up appointment, he was placed on medication. As someone who has kept physically active and has one of the healthiest diets of anyone I know, we have to believe that the elevated levels of methane and whatever chemicals that were spewed by SS-25 may have played a major part in his condition.

In early July, I developed bronchitis. I then found out that just a few days before I had started coughing there had been a leak of one of the other wells at the SoCalGas facility in Aliso Canyon. This leak was not announced to the public by the utility.

And that tendency toward a lack of communication about problems at its facility is another reason I opposed the reopening. In October 2015, SoCalGas denied the existence of a leak to residents who had contacted them about an increased odor. The utility has lied to lawmakers about the missing safety valve in the blown out well and other problems on its site, a point made by assemblyman Mike Gatto during a hearing he was holding about the disaster.

SS-25 was built in 1953, and some of the other wells are even older. Why are wells used past a certain age? To me, it's not a matter of IF there will be another leak, but WHEN. These wells are not considered built to current standards. There are active earthquake faults that run right under Aliso Canyon, which adds another layer of deep concern.

SoCalGas has not released a comprehensive list of chemicals used in its facility so I'm concerned that the communities of Porter Ranch, Granada Hills, Chatsworth, and Northridge are being exposed to toxic substances on a daily basis. Whatever was spewed out between October 2015 and February 2016 is in our homes, our

backyards, our schools, our parks, our water, our soil, our air. The gas company has stated that it shouldn't even clean all the homes within the five mile radius that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has said it wanted cleaned per a protocol program it had set up. There are still many residents who are experiencing severe rashes, daily nosebleeds, respiratory problems, headaches. Obviously there is something hazardous still in this area and will be affecting our health for years to come. We don't want to be the next Love Canal, and we certainly shouldn't have unsafe conditions foisted on us.

The gas company has continued to show bad faith toward the community it has harmed, and actually owes many residents thousands of dollars in reimbursements for expenses due to the blow out.

There are studies that have been released that show that Aliso Canyon does NOT need to be used. There are many reasons why it SHOULD not be reopened for the health and safety of some 180,000 residents of the northern San Fernando Valley.

Thank you for letting me present my statement.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Glueck