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Sick of getting sick-Please shut down Aliso Canyon facility

As a resident who lives less than 5 miles from the Aliso Canyon facility, and as an otherwise healthy 31 year old, I was rushed to the ER both in November 2015 and March 2016 as I got extremely sick from the Aliso Canyon gas blowout which required me to get IVs, pain meds and anti nausea IVs. I wake up every morning wondering if that'll happen to me again. I also wonder, when can I live a normal life and not be afraid to breathe the air in my back yard.

The head of operations of the Aliso Canyon facility admitted under oath at the recent AQMD meeting at CSUN in Northridge, that there is an average of 2 leaks per day (even after the gas blowout was capped), which amounts to over 700 leaks/year! I have experienced constant headaches, fatigue, dizziness, nausea, burning of my skin, coughs, stomach pains, female issues, fogginess, memory loss, anxiety, depression and rapid hair loss since the gas blow out - my hair falls out in clumps. I know I'm not imagining this since I hear of neighbors, family members and fellow Porter Ranch YMCA members complaining about similar symptoms - and it's scary to live so close to a facility that exposes us to such harmful gases and chemicals. Also, who knows what the long term effects are, especially if this is how we feel now.

I'm honestly worried about the health of myself and my loved ones. No one disclosed that we live near a facility like this when we moved to the neighborhood. Otherwise, we wouldn't have. I used to enjoy taking hikes in my neighborhood, but I try to avoid being outside all together now. I have a swimming pool in my backyard and used to love swimming in it. I have used it zero times this summer, in fear of being exposed to methane, benzene and other harmful substances. My eyes are currently burning as I type this (because we had the windows open last night for once to get some "fresh air" in).

The health and well-being of thousands of residents are in YOUR hands. I realize you're getting pressure from business people worried (many of which who have proven to be tied to SoCalGas) about the "necessity" of the facility in the event there MIGHT be a blowout. However, we don't need the facility! The the ability to successfully have no blowouts this summer (without using the Aliso Canyon facility), combined with recent studies and extensive research completed by environmental experts (you can read about this in multiple articles as well as the Food and Water Watch website), just comes to show that we don't actually need this facility at all! And that SoCalGas is just after their pockets. This case is simple: corporate greed versus the health of residents.

Also, the very small percentage that something MIGHT go wrong in the future as far as a blowout is NOTHING in comparison to the ACTUAL HARM that residents have suffered from for the past year or so, and who are continuously suffering today. Just yesterday, there was a report of another spike in methane levels in Porter Ranch. This, combined with the testimony of the head of operations of the facility that there is an average of 2 leaks/day, the lack of safety valves, the community residents constantly getting sick, should persuade you to vote to shut down the facility once and for all.

I respectfully request that if you cared about the Porter Ranch residents' health and well being, that you vote to shut down the Aliso Canyon facility. It's the right thing to do. Thank you for your time.