

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-IEPR-02
Project Title:	Natural Gas
TN #:	213521
Document Title:	Helen Ritenour Comments: Aliso Canyon
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Helen Ritenour
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	9/7/2016 8:55:44 PM
Docketed Date:	9/8/2016

Comment Received From: Helen Ritenour

Submitted On: 9/7/2016

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Aliso Canyon

At a PRCAC meeting, Gillian Wright of SoCalGas made a comment saying it wasn't appreciated that there was some fear being stirred up among the residents regarding Aliso Canyon and the gas leaks. What she failed to see then, and what SoCalGas fails to see now, is that they are actually the ones that have brought on this fear. The fear began when gas odors were pervasive all throughout Porter Ranch and beyond, and there was no notice to the community - residents were left uninformed and in the dark as to what was going on. The fear was further increased when SoCalGas asserted that there was no harm and yet there were ongoing reports of symptoms had by a large portion of this community, most disturbing of all - our children. Residents of this community were told that the oily mist that occurred when trying to stop the leak never left the grounds of the facility, yet those oil deposits were found all throughout the neighborhood - on playground structures at the park, on homes, cars, sidewalks. Thousands of families were uprooted from their homes... for months. When asked what caused the gas blowout back in October, there simply is no cogent answer. Could this blowout have been prevented? No one seems to know. It goes against reason then that there are those who want to reopen a facility when there has yet to be determined whether this blowout could have been prevented. If the answer is, "No, it couldn't have been prevented" then why would one allow it to run again and open up the opportunity for another blowout? If the answer is, "Yes, it could have been prevented" then why would we entrust this gas company to continue to operate when they were negligent and didn't perform their due diligence? Reopening this facility makes no sense. Our tax dollars should go towards moving away from oil/gas dependence - not on enhancing technology that has harmed our community and our health.

I have lived 7 months out of my home with my husband and our newborn. Those are precious moments in our family's life we will never get back - it was not enjoyable living from hotel to hotel (we were shuffled through NINE different rooms... with an infant). Each time we've tried to move back into our home, we've encountered symptoms. It's awful living like a sick person when we're otherwise healthy and don't experience symptoms elsewhere. There are continuous gas leaks and methane spikes in our neighborhood and we're still experiencing symptoms - and the facility isn't active. How much worse must we endure if it reopens? The SoCalGas operations manager testified under oath that there was an average of 2 leaks PER DAY. This is unacceptable. Have those of us in the community be given a list of the contaminants and toxins we're being exposed to on a daily basis? No. Would anyone in their right mind not have qualms about this and the potential risk to their health and lives, especially those with young children? Yes, there is fear. No, it is not being stirred up - it exists in the sheer fact that a non-transparent gas company who has a record of telling lies to this community continues to seek to operate without ensuring the safety of this community first and foremost. We've had many "Dear Neighbor" letters from SoCalGas stating all of their commitments, yet when it comes to actions, it's a very different story.

Sadly, many of our true neighbors and friends have moved due to fear about the risk of living in proximity to Aliso Canyon and SoCalGas operating there. It's true of us as well and that is why we will be moving from our beloved home. It's not a light or desired decision - but when it comes to the health and safety of our family and our child, and in light of the information that we know about Aliso and SoCalGas, we don't want to be anywhere near. No family should have to flee their home or area to protect their health if it can be avoided. This is not a natural disaster - it's a man-made one and we should all do our utmost to ensure it never happens again by shutting down this decrepit facility once and for all. Too many lives are harmed and impacted and there simply is no dollar value to one's health and well-being.