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Effects of living a mile from Aliso Canyon

I am 69 years old and I have lived in Porter Ranch for 13 years. The first 12 were amazing. The last year has been nightmarishly challenging.

The blowout caused changes in how I live in my home and had negatively affected my health. Before it was sealed, when I was in Porter Ranch and I went outside my nose would start to run, and I had difficulty breathing and nausea. My voice became raspy and I developed a cough that is only evident in Porter Ranch. I had nosebleeds and headaches, as well as cramping muscles and was light headed.

After the well was capped on certain days the symptoms are the same as when it was spewing whatever SoCalGas will not tell us into the air. One day, after the well was plugged my neighbor thought I was going to pass out on my drive way, so there are still days when the methane levels are high and the wind from the north that I still am symptomatic. In addition, I can't sleep with my windows open or enjoy my back yard or the community pool without feeling ill. Prior to 2015, Porter Ranch was a safe zone. It needs to once again become safe for everyone.

I saw pictures of the new turbine at the SoCalGas facility. When I heard gas company employees say they had been working 24-7 and spending millions to build a new injection system that will have twice the power as the one that was operational at the time of the blowout, and is only two miles from a fault line, while at the same time refusing to compensate, as promised, residents they forced to relocate to protect their health, I was aghast. The actions of SoCalGas have shown that human costs are irrelevant - the only thing that is important is the company's profitability. Los Angeles doesn't need the natural gas SoCalGas stores in Aliso Canyon, but Los Angeles does need healthy, productive citizens. Los Angeles doesn't need another blowout, or equipment and activities that risk a destructive earthquake. Los Angeles needs the development and utilization of safe, alternative energy sources.

The wells are old, the fault line huge, the cost of continuing to allow SoCalGas to continue operating with impunity is too high - for you, for me, my children, their children and everyone else living in Porter Ranch, the North San Fernando Valley, the City and County of Los Angeles. There are safer places in the United States to store natural gas than Aliso Canyon, and I urge this Commission to either move your families to Porter Ranch, to prove to everyone it is safe to live within a mile, or shut Aliso Canyon down.