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The Aliso Canyon Gas Storage site is not a reliable source of energy

As one of the many residents living near Aliso Canyon, I need to address the issue of energy reliability. I understand the concern about keeping air conditioners running during the summer; I live in an area that has many days with temperature highs over 100 degrees each summer. But I also live in an area that is highly vulnerable to the dangers the SoCalGas facility offers.

In my opinion, due to these dangers, the Aliso Canyon is NOT a dependable source of energy, and furthermore, presents dangers to some 1.5 million residents if the gas storage facility is allowed to resume operations.

First, there are active earthquake faults that run under Aliso Canyon. The Santa Susana fault is actually situated under the gas storage facility's wells. In close proximity are the Northridge Hills, Mission Hills, and Chatsworth faults. And these are the known faults. Those of us who grew up in California have learned that there are hidden faults that only become known when they erupt. Even if the BIG ONE, which is predicted anytime soon, is on the San Andreas fault, that seismic activity could set off a chain reaction affecting other faults including the ones running through Aliso Canyon.

When that happens, all that gas you say is needed will be gone. Poof. And as well as many lives of those living and working within at least a few miles from the facility.

Second, the SoCalGas facility is situated in an area known as a high fire danger zone. Since the October 2015 blowout, there have been five fires that broke out on the gas company's land in Aliso Canyon. One during the day of the joint agency workshop. During the 21 years I've lived there, we've had some brush fires that have swept through the area or close to us. One in particular actually started on SoCalGas land by a fallen wire and caused the destruction of many homes and one death.

The Los Angeles County fire department has mentioned the seismic and fire concerns several times. It has also mentioned that the emergency plan that SoCalGas had submitted is woefully inadequate, antiquated, and doesn't specifically address the special dangers that operating the Aliso Canyon facility will entail. And I hope the CPUC, California Dept. of Energy, Caliso, and LADWP, remember the many, many attempts to seal SS-25. This was a four month period of carloads of methane being pumped into the Los Angeles basin each day. Methane that literally was going up into the air, rather than being used to produce the energy being discussed at the workshop.

And during that time, many residents had to find alternative housing to protect their families, two schools had to be relocated due to the many students who were becoming physically ill in their classrooms, and local businesses suffered because, not only did many nonresidents avoid the affected area for their own health, but workers and business owners had to miss several work days due to the illnesses as well as the games SoCalGas was playing with relocation.

As for energy reliability, I hope that the joint agencies will keep in mind the various studies that advise that Aliso Canyon's site is NOT needed, as long as the recommended mitigation measures are continued to be implemented. These include the studies from Power Engineering and the one from EES Consulting, that was commissioned by the County of Los Angeles.

But given that there are some organizations that keep showing up at these hearings, I need to address that. These

groups receive money every year from the gas company, some get \$25,000 or more per the GO-77M report that is required by the CPUC, and in return will parrot a script given to them by SoCalGas. Most of the representatives who have shown up probably couldn't point out where Aliso Canyon is on a map, and most likely do not live in the affected area, nor have any family members in the Northern San Fernando Valley or Southern Santa Clarita Valley. But yet they will spread that script that screams there will be blackouts and people will die or businesses will fail.

Well, here's the thing. Some people have died and others have become seriously ill, but because of the toxic chemicals that have spewed out from SS-25 during the 2015 blowout.

There's a woman who lost her battle with bladder cancer just a month ago. Bladder cancer is usually considered caused by environmental factors such as exposure to chemicals.

A 13-year-old was diagnosed with aplastic anemia. This is another disease that is often caused by exposure to chemicals, including benzene.

Another child just seven years old developed AML, Acute Myeloid Leukemia. This particular strain is rarely seen in minors. One major cause is exposure to chemicals.

These are just a few examples of how this gas storage facility has been harming us in northern Los Angeles. This area has a range of ages from infant to elderly, both home owners and renters, including many students attending Cal State Northridge, and a range of socioeconomic groups, believe it or not.

The Los Angeles County department of Public Health has expanded the area that it says have been exposed to whatever was emitted from the well to a 12-mile radius. That's 1.5 million residents!

Here's a very important point: we don't know what chemicals we've been exposed to because SoCalGas won't release a comprehensive list of all materials used on SS-25 over the years.

Whatever was in that damaged well, was released during the blowout and is making us sick. STILL. SoCalGas has fought funding a health study for the damage it has done to us, even suing the AQMD to this end.

As for the economic fallout that SoCalGas is misleading many business groups about, I have already mentioned that our local businesses have suffered as a result of the unsafe and unhealthy environment caused by the blowout.

We can't even trust the methane monitoring system it has set up. For example, another company up on Aliso has a leak at its facility, and yet, the SoCalGas monitors haven't showed the increase methane levels. There has been many times that the community fence line system (that is independent of the one at the gas company) has showed above normal levels of methane for several weeks now, but everything is honky dory per the gas company's monitors.

And despite the "commitment" it has made regarding cooperating with a root cause analysis into why the blowout occurred, SoCalGas is fighting that, too. What exactly does the gas company know? What is it keeping from going public? We should all be aware that the gas company has shown itself to be duplicitous in the past so why should we trust this utility at all.

So please be aware of the propaganda the gas company has been spreading. The gas storage site at Aliso Canyon is never going to be a safe facility and needs to be shut down permanently.