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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814energy.ca.gov

CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)

**IN THE MATTER OF:***Request for Comments on Forthcoming
Solicitation Regarding Location-Specific
Gas System Decommissioning
Research*

DOCKET NO. 23-ERDD-02

NOTICE OF REMOTE-ACCESS
WORKSHOPRE: Gas System Decommissioning Research
Planning**Notice of Location-Specific Gas System Decommissioning
Scoping Workshop
March 27, 2024**

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Remote Access Only

See Attendance Instructions

The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a remote-access workshop to seek public comment on an upcoming solicitation supporting research addressing location-specific aspects of long-term gas decommissioning. The solicitation will target knowledge and planning gaps that lie between long-term policy targets for transitioning off gas and ongoing decommissioning pilots. The public can participate in the workshop in accordance with the attendance instructions below. The CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time posted, and the end time is an estimate based on the proposed agenda. The workshop may end sooner or later than the posted end time.

Agenda

Staff will present a brief background on current gas end use patterns and decarbonization challenges, share preliminary ideas for research topics related to location-specific analysis of gas decommissioning, and pose specific questions about additional research needs. Feedback received will refine solicitation topic areas and funding allocations.

The topical focus targets better linking societal and technological considerations of California's gas use and the evolving gas transition. The planned solicitation is intended to support empirically rigorous research that systematically examines variability across gas users and their usage, as discussed further below. Funded research would also interpret the implications of this variability for implementing a gas transition and for assessing its potential impacts, including as related to gas system operations, planning, technology development, energy resilience, ratepayer costs, and

equity. The focus is on the next 10-25 years. Effective research on this topic is expected to require a project team that can address the gas energy transition as simultaneously a technological and social process, and thus one that includes both relevant social scientific and technical expertise.

There will be a period for oral public comment at the end of the workshop, and written comments will be accepted for the period identified below following the workshop.

Background

In pursuing The Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act (Senate Bill 350) energy decarbonization targets,¹ California plans to greatly decrease reliance on fossil gas within the state, including by undertaking targeted gas system decommissioning and by otherwise decarbonizing gas use. The CEC's Order Instituting Informational Proceeding for Gas Decarbonization² and the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) Long-Term Gas Planning Rulemaking³ both address issues related to these plans. Some supporting implementation programs, such as the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program,⁴ are in place. This workshop is designed to inform research funded under the initiative *Location-Specific Analysis of Decommissioning to Support Long-Term Gas Planning Gas Planning* outlined in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Gas Research Plan⁵ and the initiative *Scaled-Up Gas Decommissioning Pilots and Integrated Planning Tools* outlined in the FY 2022-23 Gas R&D Investment Plan.⁶

Gas system decommissioning and decarbonization must be synchronized with conversion of multiple types of fossil gas end uses in over 10 million homes and commercial buildings, as well as gas use in the industrial, transportation, and power sectors. It must also proceed in a manner that maintains safety, considers financial costs and ratepayer energy expenses, maintains adequate energy reliability, considers the needs of local communities, and tracks potential consequences for equity. A fundamental challenge in implementing gas decommissioning is that patterns of conversions away from gas across millions of end uses and applications are difficult to predict and control. For example, converting gas uses in rural areas is different from conversion in more urban areas, renters typically have little control over equipment replacements, and contractors have important influences on consumer equipment decisions. Gas transition planning faces major uncertainties and contingencies, including disparate impacts across energy users, difficult-to-convert applications, operational issues affecting gas reliability and safety, coordination with electricity system reinforcement, and potential expansion of alternative low-carbon gas. Research analyzing location- and application-specific aspects of gas use and its conversion across an array of conditions can provide practical guidance for creating a methodical, equitable energy transition.

¹ <https://www.energy.ca.gov/rules-and-regulations/energy-suppliers-reporting/clean-energy-and-pollution-reduction-act-sb-350>

² <https://www.energy.ca.gov/proceeding/order-instituting-informational-proceeding-gas-decarbonization#:~:text=The%202021%20IEPR%20recommends%20the,states%20long%20term%20climate%20goals>

³ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/natural-gas/long-term-gas-planning-rulemaking>

⁴ <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/equitable-building-decarbonization-program>

⁵ <https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/CEC-500-2021-022.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.energy.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/CEC-500-2022-001-REV.pdf>

Attendance Instructions

Remote participants may join via Zoom by internet or phone.

- **To join via Zoom.** Click on <https://energy.zoom.us/j/83466459134?pwd=T3krb3BBQmw3UE42MVNFsk5PQ2ISZz09> or login in at <https://zoom.us/> and enter the Webinar ID **834 6645 9134** and passcode **363569** and follow all prompts.
- **To join by telephone.** Call toll-free at (888) 475-4499 or toll at (669) 219-2599. When prompted, enter the Webinar ID **834 6645 9134** and passcode **363569**.

Zoom Closed Captioning Service. At the bottom of the screen, click the Live Transcript CC icon and choose "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript" from the pop-up menu. To stop closed captioning, close the "Live Transcript" or select "Hide Subtitle" from the pop-up menu. If joining by phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors.

Zoom Difficulty. Contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the CEC Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 957-7910.

Public Comment.

The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the e-commenting page for this docket 23-ERDD-02 at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/ECommentSelectProceeding.aspx>. Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Oral comments will be accepted at the end of the workshop. Comments may be limited to three minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. To comment via Zoom, use the "raise hand" feature so the administrator can announce your name and unmute you. To comment via telephone, press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute.

Written comments may be submitted to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on April 10, 2024. Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine. Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 23-ERDD-02 and Location-Specific Gas System Decommissioning Workshop in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may be mailed to:
California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 23-ERDD-02
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Public Advisor. The CEC’s Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 957-7910 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible but at least five days in advance of the workshop. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Media Inquiries. Email mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

General Inquiries: Contact Mithra Moezzi at mithra.moezzi@energy.ca.gov or 916-232-6332

Availability of Documents: Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?doctetnumber=23-ERDD-02>. When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those subscribed to the Energy Research and Development topic. To receive these notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit [Subscriptions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions), at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: March 14, 2024 at Sacramento, California.

Jonah Steinbuck
Director of the Energy Research and Development Division

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