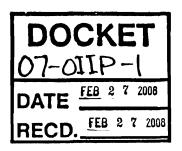
## **BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA** AND THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Implement the Commission's Procurement Incentive Framework and to Examine the Integration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards into Procurement Policies. Rulemaking 06-04-009 (Filed April 13, 2006)

Energy Commission Docket 07-OIIP-01

## COMMENTS OF EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY AND MOJAVE PIPELINE COMPANY ON PROPOSED DECISION



Craig V. Richardson, Esq. Stephen G. Koerner, Esq. El Paso Corporation – Western Pipelines 2 North Nevada Ave. Colorado Springs, CO 80903 (719) 520-4443 Email: <u>steve.koerner@elpaso.com</u>

Date: February 27, 2008

### COMMENTS OF EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY AND MOJAVE PIPELINE COMPANY ON PROPOSED DECISION

In accordance with Rule 14.3(a) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, El Paso Natural Gas Company (EPNG) and Mojave Pipeline Company (Mojave) submit their joint comments on the "Interim Opinion on Greenhouse Gas Regulatory Strategies" issued by President Peevey on February 8, 2008 (Proposed Decision).

#### **Introduction and Background**

The EPNG and Mojave pipeline systems provide over 30% of the natural gas consumed in California.<sup>1</sup> The two companies are subsidiaries of El Paso Corporation (collectively, "El Paso"), which is organized around two core businesses—pipelines and exploration and production. El Paso's pipeline group operates a network of nearly 43,000 miles of pipeline, comprising over 20% of the interstate gas pipeline infrastructure in the country. El Paso has operations in over thirty (30) states and several federal jurisdictions.

El Paso currently helps satisfy, and will continue to help meet, California's growing demand for clean-burning natural gas through its extensive network of natural gas pipelines and future natural gas projects. As a Climate Action Leader<sup>™</sup> and member of the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR), El Paso has been in the forefront of efforts to address the concerns being expressed by public and governmental stakeholders over the issue of GHGs. El Paso has been an active participant in the development of California regulations related to GHG emissions and has commented extensively in the CPUC and CEC processes, including prior comments in this proceeding on a number of issues. El Paso is also active in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) process.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> EPNG and Mojave are interstate pipelines subject to federal rather than state utility commission jurisdiction. However, we will continue to cooperate with state agencies such as the Commission as appropriate.

### **Comments**

El Paso supports the Proposed Decision as it relates to the Section 4, "GHG Policies for the Natural Gas Sector". In summary, that portion of the Proposed Decision recommends that, for the natural gas sector, the Air Resources Board (ARB) "rely on programmatic measures to achieve emission reductions and not include the natural gas sector in a multi-sector GHG emissions cap-and-trade system at this time."<sup>2</sup> This conclusion is appropriate and well reasoned. The Commission should adopt the Proposed Decision, as it will provide a sound basis for future regulation of emissions from natural gas consumption.

As we have consistently stated:

1. El Paso supports a "hybrid" economy wide cap-and-trade greenhouse gas regulatory structure through a combination of cap-and-trade structure for large CO<sub>2</sub> emitters (i.e. a downstream, point of emission design), offset programs for fugitive emissions and through policies and measures to encourage end use energy efficiency in the other segments of the natural gas value chain. The "natural gas sector" includes several different sectors of the economy with very different physical, economic, and regulatory characteristics. Any regulatory mechanism adopted for the natural gas sector that is based on an "upstream" design, aims to employ fuel consumption in the economy as a proxy for emissions. This is theoretically the economic equivalent of requiring allowance retirement at the point of emission, but may not be exactly the same in practice as direct regulation of the emissions at the emitting sources. Under this design, the expectations for reductions are highly dependent on the effective transmittal of the compliance price signals experienced by the select few upstream entities through the economy. This is a flawed theory due to inadequate transmittal of price signal, coverage, fairness, integrity

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Proposed Decision, Interim Order ¶9.

and administrative issues. All this could potentially lead to higher natural gas prices to the different sectors in the natural gas value chain without any clear tangible environmental benefit. In addition, any effort to make interstate gas pipelines the point of regulation under an "upstream" design would raise significant legal and regulatory issues the resolution of which – at best – would likely substantially delay the implementation of any GHG regulatory program by California.

2. While El Paso supports a "hybrid" structure, we believe that regulation of GHG emissions should be preceded by a period of careful measurement of emission baselines and include only those sources into the cap-and-trade program which have low emissions uncertainties. Most fugitive emissions and many process emissions cannot be measured with sufficient accuracy. Thus, inclusion of such sources could negatively impact the integrity of the cap-and-trade program.

The Proposed Decision is fully consistent with both of these positions.<sup>3</sup> El Paso strongly supports the Proposed Decision and recommends that it be adopted by the Commission. We believe that adoption of the Proposed Decision will contribute to a highly efficient and cost-effective approach to GHG reductions in California.

#### **Conclusion**

EPNG and Mojave support the Commission's and the California Energy Commission's efforts to develop recommendations to present to the ARB as it implements AB 32. We believe that any ultimate GHG regulatory scheme must incorporate the above key principles as implicitly recognized in the Proposed Decision.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See, in particular, Proposed Decision, Findings of Fact Nos. 34-37.

Respectfully submitted,

By \_\_\_\_\_/s/

Craig V. Richardson, Esq. Stephen G. Koerner, Esq. El Paso Corporation – Western Pipelines 2 North Nevada Ave. Colorado Springs, CO 80903 (719) 520-4443

Counsel for El Paso Natural Gas Company and Mojave Pipeline Company

Dated: February 27, 2008



## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND THE CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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### PROOF OF SERVICE FOR COMMENTS OF EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY AND MOJAVE PIPELINE COMPANY ON PROPOSED DECISION

On February 27, 2008, I caused to be served a true copy of:

# COMMENTS OF EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY AND MOJAVE PIPELINE COMPANY ON PROPOSED DECISION

to be served by electronic service to all parties identified on the Service List for R. 06-04-009 (Exhibit A attached). Any party without an e-mail address was served by U.S. Mail (Exhibit B attached). Additionally, the Commissioner and the assigned ALJs for R. 06-04-009 were served hard copies by U.S. Mail. I certify and declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed in Colorado Springs, Colorado on February 27, 2008.

/s/ Stacie S. Gonzalez

## Exhibit A to Proof of Service for "COMMENTS OF EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY AND MOJAVE PIPELINE COMPANY ON PROPOSED DECISION" Docket R.06-04-009

abb@eslawfirm.com abonds@thelen.com achang@nrdc.org adamb@greenlining.org aeg@cpuc.ca.gov agc@cpuc.ca.gov agrimaldi@mckennalong.com ahendrickson@commerceenergy.com aimee.barnes@ecosecurities.com ajkatz@mwe.com akbar.jazayeri@sce.com akelly@climatetrust.org alan.comnes@nrgenergy.com aldyn.hoekstra@paceglobal.com alex.kang@itron.com alho@pge.com amber@ethree.com and rew.bradford@constellation.com and rew.mcallister@energycenter.org andy.vanhorn@vhcenergy.com anita.hart@swgas.com annabelle.malins@fco.gov.uk apak@sempraglobal.com arno@recurrentenergy.com atrial@sempra.com atrowbridge@daycartermurphy.com Audra.Hartmann@Dynegy.com aweller@sel.com ayk@cpuc.ca.gov bbaker@summitblue.com bbc@cpuc.ca.gov bbeebe@smud.org bblevins@energy.state.ca.us bcragg@goodinmacbride.com bdicapo@caiso.com bernardo@braunlegal.com beth@beth411.com Betty.Seto@kema.com bill.chen@constellation.com bill.schrand@swgas.com bjeider@ci.burbank.ca.us bjl@bry.com

bjones@mjbradley.com bkc7@pge.com blm@cpuc.ca.gov bmcc@mccarthylaw.com bmcquown@reliant.com Bob.lucas@calobby.com bpotts@foley.com bpurewal@water.ca.gov brabe@umich.edu brbarkovich@earthlink.net brbc@pge.com brenda.lemay@horizonwind.com burtraw@rff.org bushinskyj@pewclimate.org bwallerstein@aqmd.gov bwetstone@hotmail.com C Marnay@lbl.gov cadams@covantaenergy.com californiadockets@pacificorp.com carla.peterman@gmail.com carter@ieta.org case.admin@sce.com cathy.karlstad@sce.com cbaskette@enernoc.com cbreidenich@yahoo.com cchen@ucsusa.org cem@newsdata.com cf1@cpuc.ca.gov cft@cpuc.ca.gov charlie.blair@delta-ee.com chilen@sppc.com cjw5@pge.com ckmitchell1@sbcglobal.net ckrupka@mwe.com clarence binninger@doj.ca.gov clark.bernier@rlw.com clyde.murley@comcast.net cmkehrein@ems-ca.com colin.petheram@att.com cpe@cpuc.ca.gov cpechman@powereconomics.com cswoollums@midamerican.com

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elvine@lbl.gov emahlon@ecoact.org emello@sppc.com epoole@adplaw.com e-recipient@caiso.com etiedemann@kmtg.com ewolfe@resero.com ez@pointcarbon.com farrokh.albuyeh@oati.net fiji.george@elpaso.com filings@a-klaw.com fis@cpuc.ca.gov fstern@summitblue.com fwmonier@tid.org gbarch@knowledgeinenergy.com gblue@enxco.com gcollord@arb.ca.gov george.hopley@barcap.com ghinners@reliant.com GloriaB@anzaelectric.org glw@eslawfirm.com gmorris@emf.net gpickering@navigantconsulting.com gregory.koiser@constellation.com grosenblum@caiso.com gsmith@adamsbroadwell.com GXL2@pge.com harveyederpspc.org@hotmail.com hayley@turn.org hcronin@water.ca.gov hgolub@nixonpeabody.com hoerner@redefiningprogress.org hurlock@water.ca.gov HYao@SempraUtilities.com hym@cpuc.ca.gov info@calseia.org Jairam.gopal@sce.com james.keating@bp.com janill.richards@doj.ca.gov jarmstrong@goodinmacbride.com jason.dubchak@niskags.com jbf@cpuc.ca.gov jbw@slwplc.com jchamberlin@strategicenergy.com jci@cpuc.ca.gov JDF1@PGE.COM

jdh@eslawfirm.com jdoll@arb.ca.gov jeanne.sole@sfgov.org jeffgray@dwt.com jen@cnt.org jenine.schenk@apses.com jennifer.porter@energycenter.org JerryL@abag.ca.gov jesus.arredondo@nrgenergy.com jf2@cpuc.ca.gov jgill@caiso.com jgreco@terra-genpower.com jhahn@covantaenergy.com jholtkamp@hollandhart.com jimross@r-c-s-inc.com jj.prucnal@swgas.com jjensen@kirkwood.com jk1@cpuc.ca.gov jkarp@winston.com jkloberdanz@semprautilities.com jlaun@apogee.net jleslie@luce.com jluckhardt@downeybrand.com jm3@cpuc.ca.gov jnm@cpuc.ca.gov jody\_london\_consulting@earthlink.net Joe.paul@dynegy.com john.hughes@sce.com johnrredding@earthlink.net jol@cpuc.ca.gov josephhenri@hotmail.com joyw@mid.org jsanders@caiso.com jscancarelli@flk.com jsqueri@gmssr.com jst@cpuc.ca.gov jtp@cpuc.ca.gov julie.martin@bp.com jwiedman@goodinmacbride.com jwmctarnaghan@duanemorris.com jwmctarnaghan@duanemorris.com jxa2@pge.com karen@klindh.com karla.dailey@cityofpaloalto.org Kathryn.Wig@nrgenergy.com kbowen@winston.com

kcolburn@symbioticstrategies.com kdusel@navigantconsulting.com kdw@woodruff-expert-services.com keith.mccrea@sablaw.com kellie.smith@sen.ca.gov kelly.barr@srpnet.com ken.alex@doj.ca.gov ken.alex@doj.ca.gov kenneth.swain@navigantconsulting.com kerry.hattevik@mirant.com kevin.boudreaux@calpine.com kfox@wsgr.com kgough@calpine.com kgrenfell@nrdc.org kgriffin@energy.state.ca.us kjinnovation@earthlink.net kjsimonsen@ems-ca.com kkhoja@thelenreid.com klatt@energyattorney.com kmills@cfbf.com kmkiener@fox.net kowalewskia@calpine.com krd@cpuc.ca.gov kyle.l.davis@pacificorp.com kyle.silon@ecosecurities.com kyle boudreaux@fpl.com lars@resource-solutions.org Laura.Genao@sce.com lcottle@winston.com ldecarlo@energy.state.ca.us leilani.johnson@ladwp.com liddell@energyattorney.com lisa.c.schwartz@state.or.us lisa weinzimer@platts.com llorenz@semprautilities.com llund@commerceenergy.com lmh@eslawfirm.com Lorraine.Paskett@ladwp.com lpark@navigantconsulting.com lrdevanna-rf@cleanenergysystems.com lrm@cpuc.ca.gov lschavrien@semprautilities.com ltenhope@energy.state.ca.us ltt@cpuc.ca.gov marcel@turn.org marcie.milner@shell.com

mary.lynch@constellation.com mclaughlin@braunlegal.com mday@goodinmacbride.com mdjoseph@adamsbroadwell.com mflorio@turn.org mgarcia@arb.ca.gov mgillette@enernoc.com mhyams@sfwater.org Mike@alpinenaturalgas.com mjd@cpuc.ca.gov mmattes@nossaman.com mmazur@3phasesRenewables.com mona@landsiteinc.net monica.schwebs@bingham.com mpa@a-klaw.com mpryor@energy.state.ca.us mrw@mrwassoc.com mscheibl@arb.ca.gov mwaugh@arb.ca.gov nenbar@energy-insights.com ner@cpuc.ca.gov nes@a-klaw.com nlenssen@energy-insights.com norman.furuta@navy.mil notice@psrec.coop npedersen@hanmor.com nsuetake@turn.org ntronaas@energy.state.ca.us nwhang@manatt.com obartho@smud.org obystrom@cera.com ofoote@hkcf-law.com pbarthol@energy.state.ca.us pburmich@arb.ca.gov pduvair@energy.state.ca.us pepper@cleanpowermarkets.com phanschen@mofo.com Philip.H.Carver@state.or.us philm@scdenergy.com pjazayeri@stroock.com ppettingill@caiso.com psp@cpuc.ca.gov pssed@adelphia.net pstoner@lgc.org pthompson@summitblue.com pvallen@thelen.com

pw1@cpuc.ca.gov pzs@cpuc.ca.gov rachel@ceert.org ralph.dennis@constellation.com ram@cpuc.ca.gov randy.howard@ladwp.com randy.sable@swgas.com rapcowart@aol.com ray.welch@navigantconsulting.com rhelgeson@scppa.org RHHJ@pge.com rhwiser@lbl.gov richards@mid.org rick noger@praxair.com rita@ritanortonconsulting.com rkeen@manatt.com rkmoore@gswater.com rmccann@umich.edu rmiller@energy.state.ca.us rmm@cpuc.ca.gov rmorillo@ci.burbank.ca.us robert.pettinato@ladwp.com Robert.Rozanski@ladwp.com roger.montgomery@swgas.com rogerv@mid.org ron.deaton@ladwp.com rprince@semprautilities.com rreinhard@mofo.com rrtaylor@srpnet.com rsa@a-klaw.com rschmidt@bartlewells.com rsmutny-jones@caiso.com rwinthrop@pilotpowergroup.com ryan.flynn@pacificorp.com S1L7@pge.com saeed.farrokhpay@ferc.gov samuel.r.sadler@state.or.us sandra.carolina@swgas.com Sandra.ely@state.nm.us sas@a-klaw.com sasteriadis@apx.com sbeatty@cwclaw.com sberlin@mccarthylaw.com sbeserra@sbcglobal.net scarter@nrdc.org scohn@smud.org

scott.tomashefsky@ncpa.com scottanders@sandiego.edu scr@cpuc.ca.gov sdhilton@stoel.com SEHC@pge.com sellis@fypower.org sendo@ci.pasadena.ca.us sephra.ninow@energycenter.org sgm@cpuc.ca.gov slins@ci.glendale.ca.us sls@a-klaw.com smichel@westernresources.org smindel@knowledgeinenergy.com smk@cpuc.ca.gov snewsom@semprautilities.com spauker@wsgr.com sscb@pge.com ssmyers@att.net steve.koerner@elpaso.com steve@schiller.com stevek@kromer.com steven.huhman@morganstanley.com steven.schleimer@barclayscapital.com steven@iepa.com steven@lipmanconsulting.com steven@moss.net svn@cpuc.ca.gov svongdeuane@semprasolutions.com svs6@pge.com tam@cpuc.ca.gov tburke@sfwater.org

tcarlson@reliant.com tcx@cpuc.ca.gov tdarton@pilotpowergroup.com tdillard@sppc.com THAMILTON5@CHARTER.NET thunt@cecmail.org tiffany.rau@bp.com tim.hemig@nrgenergy.com todil@mckennalong.com Tom.Elgie@powerex.com tomb@crossborderenergy.com tomk@mid.org trdill@westernhubs.com troberts@sempra.com UHelman@caiso.com vb@pointcarbon.com vitaly.lee@aes.com vjw3@pge.com vprabhakaran@goodinmacbride.com vwelch@environmentaldefense.org wbooth@booth-law.com westgas@aol.com william.tomlinson@elpaso.com wsm@cpuc.ca.gov wtasat@arb.ca.gov www@eslawfirm.com wynne@braunlegal.com ygross@sempraglobal.com zaiontj@bp.com 'docket@energy.state.ca.us'

# Exhibit B to Proof of Service for "COMMENTS OF EL PASO NATURAL GAS COMPANY AND MOJAVE PIPELINE COMPANY ON PROPOSED DECISION" Docket R.06-04-009

Michael R. Peevey, Commissioner Attn: Nancy Ryan, Advisor California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102-3214

Amy C. Yip-Kikugawa California Public Utilities Commission Division of Administrative Law Judges Room 2106 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102-3214

Charlotte F. TerkKeurst California Public Utilities Commission Division of Administrative Law Judges Room 2106 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102-3214

Jonathan Lakritz California Public Utilities Commission Division of Administrative Law Judges Room 2106 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102-3214

Downey Brand Sacramento Municipal 555 Capitol Mall, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Sacramento, CA 95814-4686

Matthew Most Edison Mission Marketing & Trading, Inc. 160 Federal Street Boston, MA 02110-1776

Thomas McCabe Edison Mission Energy 18101 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 1700 Irvine, CA 92612 Mary McDonald Director of State Affairs California Independent System Operator CAISO 151 Blue Ravine Road Folsom, CA 95630

Karen Griffin, Project Manager California Energy Commission Docket Office, MS-4 Re: Docket No. 07-0IIP-01 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814-5512