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Gas Leak Abatement Rulemaking R. 15-01-008 Policy and Technical Issues



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June 1, 2015**





SB 1371 (Leno, 2014)

- Applies to CPUC regulated intrastate transmission, distribution and storage facilities
- Requires CPUC to “minimize leaks as a hazard to be mitigated” ...and to reduce emissions of natural gas “to the maximum extent possible” to advance goals of greenhouse gas emissions
- Directs CPUC to “establish and require the use of best practices for leak surveys, patrols, leak survey technology, leak prevention and leak detection.”
- Requires gas corporations to file reports about natural gas leaks, and leak management practices and “estimates of gas lost due to leaks.” – (Due every May 15th)
- Confer with California Air Resources Board and open a proceeding to adopt rules. R. 15-01-008 was launched on January 15, 2015





Staff Report – Best Practices

- “Survey of Natural Gas Leakage Abatement – Best Practices” report issued for comment, March 18, 2015
- Methane emissions described as a potent greenhouse gas with impacts greater than 20 times carbon dioxide
- Identified major sources of leaks
- Reviewed seminal report from ICF International (March 2014) and U.S. EPA Natural Gas STAR program
- Proposed that for the purposes of SB 1371 GHG reductions, all leaks should be considered hazardous to people, property or the environment
- Recommends that “the best practice would be to repair all leaks immediately as they are found,” but recognized that might not be practical or cost-effective
- Other best practices compiled on Report Appendix spreadsheet





Workshop Was Held on April 6th

- Reviewed Staff Report on Best Practices for Methane Leak Abatement
- Air Resources Board provided an update on their proceedings
- Open discussion of policy aspects
- Presentations on technologies/tools for improved leak surveys and mitigation
- Initiative to form a technologies/tools working group





Specific Policy Issues Discussed in the Workshop

- The intent of SB 1371
- New methane emissions limits
- New leak grading system





Specific Technical Issues Discussed in the Workshop

- Technologies to find leaks
- Technologies to quantify the amount of methane leaked from individual leaks
- Technologies to quantify the system leak rates





Some of the Issues for Commission Consideration

- Whether to revise the definition of gas "leak"
- How to balance "technologically feasible, cost effective and use best practices"
- Whether specific best practices should be required
- Whether to revise the leak grading system
- What target emissions levels should be required
- What leak repair time limits should be required
- Whether to revise General Order 112 regarding leak surveys, grading and other practices
- What training programs, work force levels, capital improvement programs, and potential incentives are needed for gas corporations





Next Steps

- May 15, 2015 – Required Methane leak and emissions reports from the respondents were submitted as required
- Methane leak and emissions reports to be analyzed by the CPUC and ARB – Completion date to be determined
- June 8, 2015 – Pre-Hearing Conference to set scope of proceeding and tentative schedule





Thank You!

For further information related to R.15-01-008
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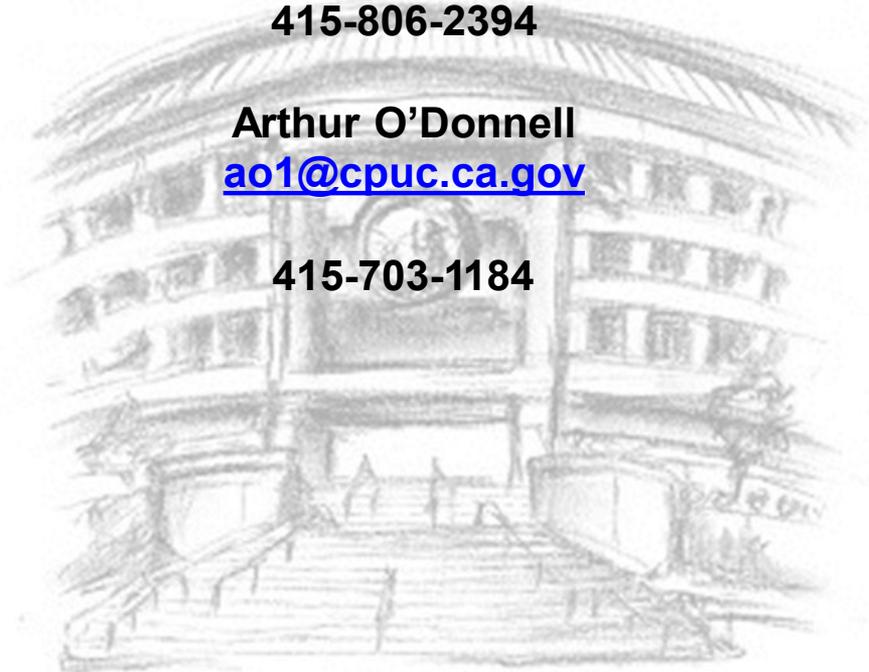
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