

Porter Ranch Community Advisory Committee

Meeting #14

Thursday, April 28, 2016
Porter Ranch Community School

DRAFT NOTES

First Posted: 4/28/16 at 9:30pm

Last Updated:

Paula Cracium, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Members Present:

Paula Cracium
Jarrod DeGonia
Craig Forry
Margaret Kim
Issam Njim
Matt Pakucko
Andre van der Valk

Guest Speakers:

Wayne Nastri (AQMD)
Dr. Phillip Fine (AQMD)
Cher Snyder (AQMD)
Nancy Feldman (AQMD)
Jason Low (AQMD)
Neena Master (SoCalGas)
Chuck Lambert (SoCalGas)

Wayne gave an overview of what AQMD was doing to monitor the issue. Then, Dr. Fine gave an overview of the regulations and how they work with other agencies related to nuisance issues. He discussed how CARB has a plan for mitigation, and indicated their plan was online.

Cher Snyder spoke about Termo. They issued them a Title 5 initially in June 2008 and then renewed in 2015. (There are 9 production wells onsite.) They went onsite on January 24, 2016 with DOGGR and others and equipment to investigate as a follow-up to the flyover. They detected emissions there venting

form the pressure release device. They took enforcement actions using rule 11-40A.

Q: Was this ignorance or intention on their part?

A: "I can't speak to that."

Q: Was there a pipe going away from their well under a tree?

A: Because it's an ongoing investigation, there are some things that can't be shared.

Q: When SCG can't accept it, what happens to gas?

A: It is vented when they can't send it to SoCalGas. They can also shut in the Gas. The pressure release device would normally.

Wayne asked that the committee limit questions since it is ongoing and that they will come back to the committee with updates once the enforcement action is resolved. CPUC would determine whether gas meets quality to put in the pipeline.

Related to the action against Termo, it is not over. It is just beginning from the point of view of AQMD.

Q: When things are released into the air, how is AQMD notified? Can they use it legally without notifying you?

A: They would keep records of how they handle their gas.

Q: Where is their gas supposed to go?

A: That's part of what the investigation will address.

Q: If their wells are shut in, do they stop operating?

A: Their production is more limited.

Nancy explained the authority she and AQMD has. When the AQMD identifies a violation, a notice is written and goes through several layers of review. They are governed by the Health and Safety Statute of the state in order to take legal action. Not all the facts are known when the violations are written, and the legal division has to weigh options. With just one incident, like Termo, they can seek civil penalties. They can try to seek settlement or head to court. They don't have the authority to prosecute a case criminally but they can refer it (to the LA County DA or EPA, if they choose to take federal action). It's not always accepted, though. With regards to Termo, they are still determining the best path forward.

Q: Can a local authority take action on their own or do they need your referral?

A: LA County and EPA don't need referral, but local cities would need the City.

Once a violation is referred to a local for criminal action, the AQMD is foreclosed and precluded from taking the violation civilly. Criminal prosecutors require a tremendous amount of information before they'll take it, so it could take months.

Q: What are the maximum penalties?

A: \$10,000/violation/day is standard if not negligent or intentional.

Cher then spoke to the Crimson leak. Enforcement action for that instance is being pursued. Due to ongoing investigation, details can't be disclosed at this time.

Nancy update the comment on the Deliverables Chart. She referred to the long-term Health Study, which has not started. The National Academies of Science is working with AQMD to determine the scope of the study. What can and can't be done with data that exists. Then, AQMD will release a Request for Proposal (RFP). The Academy will help evaluate proposals, and then the AQMD board will approval final contract. They'd to have participatory research as part of it. The AQMD is fronting the funds, and letting contracts could be 12 to 14 months. This type of study would take 2-3 (at a minimum) and so you're looking at 4-5 years for the results. There might be studies that can be done on the short term, in a year or so. They hope to have a portfolio of studies over time. There is some debate as to what it should like, and AQMD is taking steps to move forward.

Before they went to the National Academies, they worked with County Health to make sure the engagement was the correct approach.

Q: Regarding condition 7, did they provide data back to 10/23/15?

A: Not sure if they had date aback to that date. It went back before Feb 10, but not sure how far back. They'll get back to the committee. The purpose of the condition was to look at all data.

A discussion continued related to air quality levels in the northwest Valley and around greater Los Angeles. AQMD indicated they normally don't manage indoor air quality, which is what LA County Public Health is addressing.

Q: Could you add a Benzene monitor at the location of Site 1?

A: SoCalGas also is monitoring and contracting out the work that is submitted to AQMD.

The community doesn't rely on SoCalGas data, so AQMD and ARB data is most important. They use their own measurements from Castlebay Elementary.

They have been working with ARB to understand natural methane levels in the area to help determine what gas comes from where. Levels were set to know that if it exceeded it, it would need to be further investigated and does not indicate an unhealthy level.

Since the date of the well capped, they've had 150 calls. On 20 days. They've had no calls. 20-30 days with one or two complaints, and one day where there were 40 calls. There was a day with 5 and 8 calls.

Q: Are you aware of the stability of the field?

A: That's not our area of oversight/expertise.

Paula showed a map of various levels of methane levels. Jason explained that the yellow is ambient levels, and that site one is being invested to understand why there is gas there. They are looking at what gas migration might have occurred around the area of the leak through the soil and how long that lasts. The measurements are onsite, very close to SS25, and the spikes are not reaching the community and trying to understand why a very small area that is still releasing gas. Software limitations for this map, but there is consistency in the data that there is a slow decline in the methane.

Q: When there are high number of calls, how long should it take for someone to investigate?

A: It depends on what staff is doing at that time of the complaint. Staff might be engaged in other complaints. They would deploy more people if there is spike.

On May 14th, there will be a status hearing on the Abatement Order at the Woodland Hills Hilton. They will continue to meet with SoCalGas on the Long Term Health Study

Q: What does the Abatement Order mean to the community?

A: AQMD has a legally enforceable agreement to get data, develop plans, etc. to serve the community. There are financial penalties that are more stringent and swift than other modes. This is legally binding. If only includes SoCalGas and not other users or facilities on the.

A: A company can release a certain amount of gas before they have to report it?

Q: It depends, but each permit will spell out specific conditions. There are some general guidelines, but the permit gives more details. There are exemptions and different protocols based on the facility. They will send a clarifying chart.

Dusty from Senator Pavley's office updated the group on the passage of her bill. It needs concurrence from the Senate and the Governor's signature. He also updated the committee on other bills.

Neena Master, Customer Outreach Assistance Group. She updated the committee on the primary injunction, and they are maintaining their temporary relocation plan. They are moving those relocated into apartment style long term housing. They are working with the 17 housing providers to move people from hotels into the longer-term temporary. They can self-place to remain in a hotel, but they must pay and submit reimbursement. Preliminarily, 275 households have moved to long-term temporary residences. Approximately 3600 residences are still relocated.

Home cleaning has just begun, and 35 homes have applied for it. The first 7 homes were cleaned on 4/27. They are promoting it staggered, as they can clean 10-20 homes per day. They are ramping up cleaning to be able to 200 homes/day by the end of May. The cleaning program addresses particulates and dust on surfaces.

They create a negative pressure system with a vent while they clean. They are using a HEPA filter to filter air. They clean hard flooring surfaces, then drapes and window dressings. Then, they'll use soap solutions to clean countertops, furniture. They use Honest or 7th Generation cleaning solutions. On sofas or fabric furniture, they'll use a damp cloth.

Q: What do you expect to find that harmful?

A: I (Chuck) wouldn't expect to find anything toxic?

Q: Would you, as a toxicologist, wait until the swabs come back from the Health Department before moving back?

A: No.

Q: Are you cleaning air ducts?

A: No, but they're replacing furnace filter.

Q: Can you send a protocol in writing?

A: Sure.

Q: Why are long-term leases extended to May 15th?

A: Extending Long term leases to May 15th to evaluate court order. Through May 9th at hotels. Landlords have agreed to extend day-by-day.

Meal Allowance is being updated: \$45 for adults 18 and over, \$35 for children 17 to 7, \$25 for 6 and under. They have also launched a tip line for abuse of relocation services. An email to this effect will be sent out.