

Porter Ranch Community Advisory Committee

Meeting #6

Thursday, February 4, 2016
Cal State University Northridge

DRAFT NOTES

First Posted: 2/5/16 at 5:35pm

Last Updated:

Paula Cracium, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:13pm.

Members Present:

Paula Cracium
Jarrod DeGonia
Craig Forney
Rana Ghadban
Tom Johnson
John Lee
Mary Melvin
Matt Pakucko
Issam Najm
Dina Sim
Jane Stanton
Andre Van der Valk

Guest Speakers:

Wade Crowfoot, Office of Governor Brown
Ed Randolph, California Public Utilities Commission
Leslie Luke, LA County Office of Emergency Management
Gillian Williams, SoCalGas

Wade Crowfoot from the Governor's Office was present to check-in with the Committee:

"I'm aware of the fear and confusion, and I am here to answer the questions that have been asked. Ed Randolph from the CPUC is also here to answer questions about reliability."

On Thursday, the Air Resources board conducted an overhead test of the leak. It remains unchanged and has remained stable.

The relief well is completely separate from the leaking well. The relief well is very close now to the leaking well. They expect to intercept the leaking well next week. It will shave a hole in the relief well, and then fluids and mud will be pumped into the leaking well to attempt to cap it. There will be a 24-hour period to monitor to ensure that those materials are holding. If they are, cement will be pumped in to provide a permanent cap. It takes 24-48 hours to cure. Once it is cured, SCG will conduct tests to ensure gas is not traveling up. By plugging the well at the bottom, experts believe gas will not exit at the leak. Wade clarified that "it is not our expectation that the well will be killed by the end of next week."

After SCG determines there isn't a leak, regulators will then have to determine it's complete closure. DOGGR will be leading a determination and posting the criteria used in the determination. There will be an additional 24-48 hour waiting period to ensure that the materials are stable. Temperature logs and gas logs will be used by DOGGR as part of the evaluation.

There will be onsite monitoring for methane as a partnership of Air Resources Board and SCAQMD. There will be continuous measurements of the air.

One question has been about the required time to relocate once the leak is filled. Stopping the leak would be a process of 4-5 days to have the determination that it is officially stopped. There is an effort among state and local agencies to speak with a unified voice at a briefing where each agency anticipates questions and seeking to get the information out.

SCG and City Attorney are in conversation regarding required relocation time after leak is filled. The Governor's Office has expressed to SCG that more time would be appreciated and positive conversations are happening there. The uncertainty for people is difficult. The goal is to be clear on how long this timeframe is. There is also a provision to look at relocation on a case-by-case basis.

SBA has been requested to provide low-interest bridge loans. We should hear next week if the SBA is approving those loans.

A key question has been asked about continued safety after the leak is stopped. DOGGR will do a test for safety of the other wells on the facility before any new injections can be approved. The Governor's Office has a strong desire to get it done. Their goal is to post the DOGGR criteria quickly along with an explanation for the public.

The Governor has directed state agencies to assess the long-term viability of Aliso Canyon and other storage facilities in the state. Aliso Canyon plays an important role in the energy system in the LA Basin.

Paula: Does the Governor's office have any ability to require the SCG to extend the timeline of relocated residents moving back to their homes?

A: Not that we can see. The agreement was between the City Attorney's Office and SCG. There is wide recognition that the 48-time window is a concern, so there is a very active conversation to amend that provision. People need time to plan their lives, and they need to know what to expect.

Paula: How long after the leak is fixed will the Governor's State of Emergency be in effect?

A: Typically, the State of Emergency is not removed immediately. This keeps certain legal authorities in place. We have had conversations with the community to remove the State of Emergency to send a message of normalcy. But, follow up actions need to take place to remove the status.

Paula: Residents are concerned about the need to verify if their homes are safe to return to. Which agencies can provide information and determine if surfaces are safe?

A: OEHHA is the scientific expert on the compounds from the leak. We've asked them to be prepared to answer if residents question if their homes are safe. They have said that these are gaseous compounds that don't stick to surfaces. They suggest letting ducts and air systems run for two airs and open the windows to get rid of stale air. They are not concerned about those odorants lingering. Oily residues outdoors can be remedied by contacting SCG, who has offered to clean those oily residues in pools and yards.

Paula: We want to have an agency come and check 100 homes to say they have checked the ducts and surfaces so that residents can feel confident that they don't have to call and have their houses cleaned. They want to understand that their homes are safe. Can they look at homes and not the data? Who could do that?

A: I'll take that back to the agencies to see if we can verify the absence of materials. OEHHA, the Air Resources Board and County Department of Health would work together to provide such information.

John Lee: If they are testing homes, can they also test the water? There are whole neighborhoods that have been empty and complaining of residue in their toilets.

A: I will bring that back, as well.

Matt: Is it a conflict for the state to come back and say it is safe after 48 hours since they were the ones who originally had inspection oversight?

A: I am presenting what our scientific experts have found. The agencies have been monitoring since early in the leak. They have detected methane and mercaptans. Benzene has been a compound of concern because it is harmful. The data verified that benzene is below levels of concerns. While odorants cause symptoms, they are not actually creating health damages. What the long-term impacts are has been a concern. SCAQMD has ordered a long-term health study about odorants. Additionally, OEHHA has convened an independent panel of experts from universities and have been asked questions. OEHHA is collecting those independent perspectives and will be shared in the coming days. Despite all of that, it would be helpful if these experts went into homes to verify that there aren't any compounds. I don't know how many are impacted by the oily substance, but SCG has taken responsibility to clean that.

Issam: The homeowner needs to recognize that there is a problem with the oily substance and be able to tell the agencies that there is a problem. Regardless of what people believe is acceptable or not, we would like experts to come in and test to make sure it's safe.

Mary: It would make sense to tests schools if you're testing homes.

Paula: We would like the testing data to come back quickly and not have to wait to send them back to labs.

A: It's understandable to expect know as soon as possible to move back.

Jarrod: At the Board of Supervisor's Meeting, Supervisor Antonovich will ask agencies to come before the board and to talk about the role of the county. We need to know what the role of Public Health is. We will have a much more thorough discussion there.

Issam: With the Governor's declaration, what has the community gained?

A: Expedited action from state agencies and assurances that certain measures are being taken. It required a comprehensive safety review, which wouldn't normally be the case. The Governor directed agencies to do a long-term viability study on the future of Aliso Canyon. The SBA resources were a result of the declaration. The emergency proclamation does not provide compensation, however.

Issam: We want to know about the order to SCG to stop the release of gas at the well. Where is the Governor in this picture? How can the minimum volume be allowed during a declaration of emergency?

A: The Governor had asked for maximum withdrawal. That order was formalized to not allow new gas injection. Then they prioritized removing gas to release

pressure. For weeks, there was a system to maximize the release of gas. Then the question becomes the fact that Aliso Canyon is required to provide gas to 11 million people during the cold time. If we have a cold snap, we don't want to be in a position for people to not have heat or cooking fuel. Into the summer, electricity is a different issue. Dropping below the level will threaten delivery of gas.

Craig: Are we going to get specific information about the timing from the time the leak is filled and when it is certified?

A: We want to explain the process in detail so people will understand. We also want to be transparent through that process. If someone understands the phases, they would know it isn't permanent and know that it will be days later before the agency confirms that it is stopped. We want to make sure people know that there are several steps.

Craig: How will you disseminate the information?

A: The news and on our website.

Craig: What about DOGGR certification timing?

A: Our goal is to put this to writing on the website. DOGGR will have details, but the DOGGR certification wouldn't happen in hours. There would be a passage of time to wait for the cement to dry and to see that the well is stabilized. It wouldn't be a situation of SCG stopping the leak and DOGGR certifying a few hour later.

Craig: When will you do that? What is the expectation? Can we have a firmer idea?

A: This is a unique situation. There is a need to double confirm. I will have DOGGR share that.

Craig: Will the field be shut down until it's certified?

A: The comprehensive safety review will reveal the next steps in determining the future of Aliso Canyon, which is a longer-term consideration.

Craig: How long will the studies take to determine if the wells will be allowed to be put back in service?

A: I would talk in the timeframe of months depending on the specific criteria at the wells.

Craig: So, maintaining the emergency gives governor authority of the long-term study?

A: Yes.

Matt: Are they withdrawing right now?

A: They are holding it right now until needed for a cold snap. There are different levels of cold snaps. There was notice that there may be a higher need, but they don't think that actually happened.

Andre: 60-80 people (Chatsworth NC) met and not everybody feels that the facility needs to be closed. There aren't enough tanks in the world to duplicate on top of the ground to replace those wells. If Aliso Canyon is shut down, we will be in an allocation situation. I live three miles from the well, and I have monitors; and the monitors spiked with a diesel truck went by. There are a number of us that want to be realistic.

Tom: There will be a health impact study in 2-3 months. What department or agency will oversee that?

A: SCAQMD called for the study, and it will be OEHHA to oversee it. They will be pleased to come down when that study is done to talk it through. Scientific explanations are complex, and residents will need to be briefed in an accessible way.

Jarrold: SCAQMD will be the coordinating party working with other entities and agencies. Councilmember Englander also reached out to USC.

Tom: We have an aqueduct in Granada Hills. If there are any concerns about contaminants getting into that water, it would be prudent to take action now and not wait. We are all seeing what's happening in Flint, Michigan, and I would recommend that we do something now to make sure that water source is not contaminated.

A: We will provide information about water tests that have already been done as well as reaching out to water companies to see if anything needs to be done.

Jane: I understand that banks can't give loans till the state of emergency is lifted.

A: We asked lawyers if this is allowed. We also heard that there are big retail banks canceling. Our legal team at OES has not found any evidence that this is happening. We reached Wells Fargo, and evidence has not been found. If you know of residents, we can have our people look into it.

Issam: That was not a voice of reality, it was a voice of pontification [referring to Andre's comments earlier in the meeting]. It is not unreasonable for people to expect their government to provide safe services. I expect government to provide that coverage; this event derailed it. Do not expect me to have a confidence in

what is happening here. I want to know what will happen to prevent this in the future. The same set up with additional monitoring won't do that.

Matt: The killing process: is this a permanent version of the well kill or is there something after that?

A: The final stage or completion of the well actually takes a very large rig a series of weeks to make a series of actions at the top of the well so it can be left in permanence. The problem with this location is that it needs to be stabilized. As a result of top kills early on that didn't work, it created impacts in the soil at the wellhead.

Matt: Why would they do that extra stuff?

A: You have exceeded my expertise to answer the question.

Matt: I think we would prefer a permanent well kill before returning to our homes.

A: I want to be clear that the confidence of independent experts that the cementing of the well at the bottom is the permanent solution.

Matt: It still sounds temporary.

Paula: What is comprehensive review? In the past, it was just a camera dropping down. When that is done, will they be able to go back to 100% fill or will that happen after the many months of other tests?

A: I don't know about the second question. On the comprehensive review, a series of tests will be conducted on the wells beside just a simple test. DOGGR is going to put the elements of that paper online and to the public. You really want to understand the comprehensive review.

Paula: We want to understand the check-list.

Matt: When they pump all the stuff down to kill the well, what are the chances that the stuff comes up to the top? We are concerned that they will bury the evidence.

A: Some of the fluid may move up the well. There is a high level of confidence that the cement may come up somewhat but not where the well is. CPUC is focused on maintaining the evidence.

Then, Wade introduced Ed Randolph from the CPUC Energy Division.

Ed then presented a slide presentation, which can be viewed starting at 1:05:55 in the PRCAC Meeting #6 Video here: <https://vimeo.com/154271130>.

During the presentation, the following questions were asked:

Jarrold: So, looking at the map, storage systems bisect each other?

A: They don't have the capacity to meet demand on their own.

Andre: What's the age of these pipelines?

A: I don't know off the top of my head.

Andre: Are they in good shape? Looks like one of the major pipelines runs on Reseda Blvd.

A: The SCG system is relatively new. After the San Bruno explosion, the CPUC required companies to do assessments. Almost all SCG pipes are "pigable" meaning that they can insert a remote inspector that moves throughout the pipe system checking it from the inside without excavation.

Jarrold: On slide six, hospitals and municipal governments. Are we certain that hospitals are required to have backup?

A: I don't know the regulatory guideline. but it has been my experience.

Jarrold: During summer we have cooling shelters. If the city or county needed to set up a warm weather shelter, do we have a day to get ahold of the CPUC to let them know?

A: I don't think that system is in place.

Andre: Over 50% of non-core customers are electric generation. Can electric companies go back to other fuels?

A: Coal is not an option for the basin. Some of them only operate off natural gas and don't have storage tanks.

John Lee: If we aren't injecting any more gas, come summertime, we will need to inject more to meet that need?

A: We are operating under the assumption that there will be no more injections and operating under the assumption that inspections will take some time.

John Lee: The contingency plans don't include injecting?

A: We are still developing contingency plans. We are operating under the assumption that there are no more injections.

John Lee: We could stop the leak, technically, if we had 15 cold days?

A: We would have to get lower than zero to stop the leak. On a really cold day we need .6 from Aliso Canyon.

Issam: What is the relative consumption of core and non-core?

A: Non-core is 40%, Core is 60%. In the summer that flips.

Issam: Does the pipeline satisfy the core demand?

A: If there aren't any issues with the pipeline, without the wells, you could barely meet core demand.

Andre: If we don't have Aliso Canyon this summer, we could have curtailment? If cutting off the electric suppliers, we could also see brown outs?

A: I won't go to the point that it's a given; it's a possibility. With 15 in the field, unless something else happens, we are okay. The system should be resilient enough to have to major disaster. If things go reasonably well, we should be fine. We will go in to change some of the rules in the summer to incentivize non-core to have more gas in their pipelines.

Issam: You can understand, from our perspective, that there was an accident at the Gas Company that resulted in a disaster to our lives. They have a responsibility to their customers, but they have made us carry the burden of that. 'Because we have other customers, you have to keep dealing with this.' We feel the CPUC went behind everybody's back because they have a business.

A: I'm sympathetic of the burden it puts on the community. When we did an analysis, we drew it down as far as we possibly could and be able to meet the needs of the system. In an ideal world, the system would be much more full. I apologize if it came from the SCG and that you weren't aware of the letter right away. We put it on the website, and that may not be the best thing to do to get the information out. You are justified in using the word you used.

Issam: Considering what has happened here, there is a single point of failure for the entire system. There is no redundancy that will allow you to let this well go. It is inconceivable that this well is the single point of failure.

A: A big factor in redundancy planning, there has never been an instance of an entire well system going down. What was not in that balance was that an event would have you stop injecting into an entire field.

[END OF SLIDE PRESENTATION]

Wade then clarified that the relief well is very close to the leaking well. The intercept well is in a position to intercept the well as early as Monday. They will then be in a position to pump mud and fluids. Any number of things could happen during this process that would hinder the efforts. I want to be clear that the leak is stopped on any given day. It is purely conjecture. In answer of how quickly it could occur, all of the steps that need to happen would take days, now fewer than five days. The governor's office is not that this will be done at the end of the week.

Paula: You aren't saying it will be or that it won't be. There are steps that could change the timing.

A: Yes. I want to be very clear about expectations.

Paula: How will that step-by-step communication happen?

A: I will take that back and ask for real time information.

Craig: It seems that the problem with killing the well was the pressure. What is the pressure now?

A: Wade answered that pressure in specific well has dropped substantially.

Leslie Luke County OEM:

He updated that they had been going out to businesses and that the letter has gone to the SBA for assistance. There were questions about home loans being denied or canceled, and we have not found anything about loans being denied because of the Governor's declaration.

Leslie then read statement from Public Health regarding the safety in the community:

- The voluntary relocation was an avenue for relief for residents who were having symptoms or health-related reactions associated with odors. Odors and associated symptoms formed the basis of Public Health's directive for voluntary relocation assistance.
- Public Health considers the sealing of the leaking well to be an important first Step in restoring conditions to the community.
- It is possible that odors could persist some time after sealing of the well, because gases could continue to be released into the community from soil at the facility and/or other potential sources of emissions.

- Public Health's decisions will be based on the science of air and health monitoring, not just by the sealing of the leaking well.
- Public Health receives and interprets new data every week regarding air quality monitoring. Public Health will continue to review the data to assess for reductions in levels of methane and other gases after the leak is sealed.
- With the sealing of the well, public health expects to see further reductions of methane and the compounds causing odors. Ultimately it is expected the concentration of these chemicals will reduce to normal background levels.
- After sealing of the well, it is possible that residents may smell odors and exhibit health symptoms upon returning home. Residents who continue to experience symptoms should contact Public Health.

SoCalGas Update:

Gillian Wright reported on relocation. SCG are continuing to offer hotel and long-term housing depending on availability. There has been less available as the lease offerings are shorter.

5695 households have been relocated since the beginning of the incident. 939 households have declined 1150 have offers in hand and deciding. 983 households are in progress.

They have 1395 households that were placed at one time but have returned home. The net number being paid for alternative housing currently is 4300. Nearly every residence spend some time at home. Many of these residences seek air filtration while they are relocated because they spend some time at home.

We are continuing to take requests for air filtration units. We are adding email communication to let people we know we have their requests. We have had delays with manufacturers. We have purchased all units from every manufacturer worldwide. We will continue to honor those requests and continue to deliver those units. If units come in after leak is filled, we will still provide it if residents still want them. Once there are no more units, we will stop approving those requests.

Issam: For those who ordered one to use, where do they submit a claim?

A: They needed to be pre-approved. We pre-approved until the middle of January. They had approximately 2100 preapproved. If you have a preapproval send receipts to claimsreceipts@semprautilities.com. They have a very small number of preapprovals that still need documentation.

They sent out 1800 checks this week. They inserted with the checks that we are reimbursing different types of reimbursements separately. Meal reimbursement would be processed separately from mileage.

They are working through requests for hotel reimbursements. Almost everything they have will be processed this week. If they need additional documentation, they will be contacting residents. They are trying to clear the number of reimbursements.

Paula: Regarding the 48 hours [move back timing]?

A: We are still in talks with the City Attorney's Office, and we want an agreement in hand before we announce it. I am hopeful to announce within the next day or two.

Paula: Can you give us an update about the fixing of the leak?

A: We have been regularly briefing the Governor's office and other state agencies. We are very close to the end of the leak, but we are also into the most technical part of the fix. There are a number of steps that need to happen. We don't know if they will go as planned or as timed. We will be thoughtful and careful in regards of what makes sense from an engineering standpoint as well as employee safety. We will communicate as much as we can. There will be a joint communication when the well is successfully killed. We will give clear progress reports as fully as we can. We don't want to put out statements about what is uncertain. We will communicate what is certain.

Paula: Is there any additional risk to the community as you proceed?

A: The issue is not a risk to the community rather the technical accuracy. There is no additional risk.

Craig: The second relief well—will you stop drilling the second well if the leak is fixed?

A: We are moving ahead until and unless we know it is not needed. We will announce at the same time as the leak fix.

Issam: Where you draw gas through the casing, other wells like this concerns us. Do you know how many wells are like this? Does SCG have any plan to terminate the use of these wells?

A: When the leak is sealed, there will be the safety process and review. Any changes will be considered at that time and during the long-term review. The field is essentially stopped right now. I don't know how many of those wells there are.

Matt: asked about waiver that states on the website that using the website waives privacy rights.

A: I believe it is a standard privacy waiver. Which rights are you concerned about?

Matt: This waiver waives my rights.

John Lee: It's under terms and conditions section.

A: I'll get clarification. I believe it is only about downloading something.

Tom: With tonight's comments, there is an expectation that the well will be killed Monday. Could you keep the committee updated as to where we stand on Monday and Tuesday?

A: We will keep you informed.

Member updates:

Craig would like to see **DOGGR**. We'd like to know what they are doing with each well. Age and number of wells, etc.

Paula: We may have the **LA City Attorney** here to discuss the move back.

Paula: If we are in a fix zone, that may be more important to talk about.

Tom asked one more question of SCG about the **health study** that would take 3-4 months. When will that study be completed and who is performing the study.

A: Will have to take both back. Maybe determined based on the amount of data needed.

Adjourned at 8:39PM