

MEMBERS  
JEFF STONE  
VICE CHAIR  
BENJAMIN ALLEN  
ROBERT M. HERTZBERG  
BEN HUESO  
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON  
BILL MONNING  
ANDY VIDAK  
LOIS WOLK



California Legislature  
Senate Committee  
on  
Natural Resources and Water

FRAN PAVLEY  
CHAIR

BILL CRAVEN  
CHIEF CONSULTANT  
DENNIS O'CONNOR  
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT  
KATHARINE MOORE  
CONSULTANT  
PATTY HANSON  
COMMITTEE ASSISTANT

STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 5046  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4116  
FAX (916) 323-2232

December 9, 2015

Steve Bohlen, Ph.D., Supervisor  
Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources  
801 K Street, MS 18-05  
Sacramento, CA 95814-3530

Michael Picker, President  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

DEC 14  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

RE: Investigation of the Aliso Canyon gas storage well leak

Gentlemen,

On October 23, a leak was discovered in a gas storage well at the Southern California Gas Company's Aliso Canyon facility. It is now over 6 weeks later and natural gas continues to leak from the well and into the environment and the surrounding community. The Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources has had staff out at the facility since the leak started and the California Public Utilities Commission has overall jurisdiction over the facility. On behalf of my constituents, thousands of whom are impacted by this leak, I would like to thank your and your organizations' staff for their efforts to ensure the safe plugging of the leaking well.

Both the Division and the Commission have made public commitments to investigate the cause of the leak. While I appreciate that the immediate concern is plugging the well, I expect that your organizations will complete a thorough, comprehensive and exhaustive investigation of the leak in a timely manner. The investigation should include all possible practices that may have contributed to the leak including physical and structural design, operating and maintenance practices.

In addition, the investigation should also include recommendations and specific actions to be taken by the Division and the Commission to help ensure an incident of this scope, magnitude and duration never happens again. There have been significant community concerns about delays in notification to the surrounding residents about the leak. The investigation should address the development of model notification protocols for the community as well as appropriate triggering events.

Finally, I request that upon completion of the investigations, the results be provided in their entirety to the public and the Legislature in order for appropriate action to be taken. The costs of the Commission's response, investigation and subsequent actions should be borne by the shareholders of the Southern California Gas Company.

Thank you again for your organizations' ongoing efforts to plug the well, stop the leak and prevent further damage to the community, public health and the environment.

Sincerely,



Fran Pavley  
Senator, 27<sup>th</sup> District  
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

cc: Michael Florio, Commissioner, CPUC  
Catherine Sandoval, Commissioner, CPUC  
Carla Peterman, Commissioner, CPUC  
Liane Randolph, Commissioner, CPUC  
Timothy Sullivan, Executive Director, CPUC  
Elizaveta Malashenko, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC  
Nick Zanjani, Director (interim), Office of Governmental Affairs, CPUC  
Ben Turner, Department of Conservation  
Keali'i Bright, Natural Resources Agency  
Wade Crowfoot, Office of Governor Brown  
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Office of Governor Brown  
Cliff Rechtschaffen, Office of Governor Brown