



## Steps to Determine Whether Injection May Resume at Aliso Canyon

The Southern California Gas Company sent a letter on November 1, 2016, to the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) stating that the mandatory safety review at the Aliso Canyon storage facility is complete and requesting permission to resume natural gas injection. The Division responded that it will review the request in conjunction with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The moratorium on injection remains in place.

Under requirements set forth by the Division, all the wells at the facility must either pass a rigorous series of tests, be isolated from the reservoir and temporarily taken out of service, or be permanently plugged and abandoned.

Independent experts from Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore, and Sandia National Laboratories (National Labs) are working in partnership with the Division throughout the safety review process at Aliso Canyon and validated the testing requirements issued to Southern California Gas.

Additional steps remain before a decision is made about whether the field is safe and injection can resume:

- The Division must confirm through inspection that the Aliso Canyon facility is in compliance with all the conditions set forth in Senate Bill 380; the state's emergency regulations for underground gas storage; and the State Oil and Gas Supervisor's Formal Order 1109 for Aliso Canyon, all of which are intended to ensure the protection of public health and safety as well as the environment. The CPUC and California Air Resources Board will also participate in the inspection.
- A number of elements are in place to evaluate safety at Aliso Canyon. In addition to the well testing, the Division and CPUC directed Southern California Gas to conduct a broader safety evaluation at its storage field.
- Before any decision is made, the Division will hold a public meeting in the local community. At the meeting, regulators from the Division and the CPUC will share the findings of the comprehensive safety review and provide an opportunity for the public to respond.

- If the CPUC and the Division concur that injection can safely resume at Aliso Canyon, the Division will issue a Project Approval Letter (PAL). The PAL will set the conditions and limits under which injection may resume. Per SB 380 requirements, operations may occur only within a range of pressures designated by state regulators in consultation with the National Laboratories.

SB 380 also requires the CPUC, by July 1, 2017, *“to open a proceeding to determine the feasibility of minimizing or eliminating use of the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility located in the County of Los Angeles while still maintaining energy and electric reliability for the region, and to consult with specified entities in making its determination.”* This requirement is not associated with the Division’s public meeting on the safety of the facility.

Public comment and input can be sent to both the Division and the CPUC.

**Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources**

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