



NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

PRE-RULEMAKING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF UPDATES TO UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE REGULATIONS

July 8, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) has publicly released pre-rulemaking draft regulations (Discussion Draft) for the purpose of receiving public input on the development of updates to the regulations governing the Division's Gas Storage Program.

The Division will be conducting two public workshops to provide information and answer questions from the public on the Discussion Draft. The public workshops are scheduled for the following dates and locations:

August 9, 2016
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Natural Resources Building
Auditorium
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 11, 2016
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Hilton Woodland Hills
Trillium Room
6360 Canoga Avenue
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

BACKGROUND

On January 6, 2016, Governor Jerry Brown issued a proclamation of a state of emergency relating to the gas storage leak in Aliso Canyon. The proclamation required the Division to promulgate emergency regulations to address safety and reliability measures. The Division promulgated emergency regulations that became effective on February 5, 2016. The Division is now working to expand on the requirements in the emergency regulations as part of a formal rulemaking for permanent regulations. Although the permanent gas storage regulations were part of an earlier Underground Injection Control rulemaking effort, the events at Aliso Canyon help to emphasize the need for a separate rulemaking package for gas storage.

The Division is providing a Discussion Draft of the proposed regulations in order to receive public comment. The Division continues to consult with the National Laboratories, operators, other state and federal regulatory agencies, and other interest groups in the development of these regulations. It is the Division's goal to commence the rulemaking process by the end of August and finalize the rulemaking process by the early part of 2017.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

The Discussion Draft and related documents and information are available on the Division's website at: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/>

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Any person, or his or her authorized representative, may submit written comments, statements, or arguments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to the Department of Conservation.

The written comment period closes at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 22, 2016. The Division will not consider any comments received after that time. Comments may be submitted by email to DOGGR_GasStorageRegs@conservation.ca.gov or by facsimile (FAX) to (916) 324-0948. Please indicate the subject line: **"Discussion Draft Underground Gas Storage Regulations."**

Comments can be submitted by mail and addressed to:
ATTN: Discussion Draft Underground Gas Storage Regulations
Department of Conservation
801 K Street, MS 24-02
Sacramento, CA 95814

Couriers delivering hard copies of comment letters must check in at the 18th floor reception desk, who can contact Ms. Rachael Tadlock at (916) 323-1777.

The comments received throughout the current comment period will be reviewed and considered as the Division updates the draft regulations. Updated draft regulations will be made public when the Division commences a formal rulemaking process.

ACCESSIBILITY

Services, such as language translation, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of these services, please make your request no later than ten working days prior to the hearing by calling the staff person referenced in this notice.

Servicios, como traducción de inglés a otros idiomas, pueden hacerse disponibles si usted los pide con tiempo. Para asegurar la disponibilidad de éstos servicios, por favor haga su petición al mínimo de diez días laborables antes de la reunión y llama a la persona del personal mencionada en este aviso.

FUTURE NOTICES

The Division will hold the public workshops at the time and place noted above. Any change in the date, time, and place of the public workshops or comment period will be noticed on the Division's website: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the process of the proposed action, please contact Mr. Tim Shular, Office of Governmental, and Environmental Relations at (916) 322-3080, or by email at DOGGR_GasStorageRegs@conservation.ca.gov.