



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION NEWS RELEASE

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CALIF. OIL & GAS DIVISION ISSUES NOTICE OF PENDING EMERGENCY NATURAL GAS STORAGE REGULATIONS

SACRAMENTO — The California Department of Conservation (DOC) today gave notice of an interim rulemaking package to regulate natural gas storage facilities. The emergency regulations are required by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s January 6 declaration of a state of emergency due to the ongoing Southern California Gas Company natural gas leak at Aliso Canyon. The emergency regulations will go to the Office of Administrative Law on January 26.

“These regulations execute the Governor’s order and will significantly strengthen state oversight of natural gas storage facilities to ensure public health and safety as well as environmental protection,” said DOC Chief Deputy Director Jason Marshall.

In a January 6 proclamation, Governor Brown ordered DOC’s Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources to issue emergency regulations requiring gas storage facility operators throughout the state to comply with six new safety and reliability measures:

- ◆ Require at least a daily inspection of gas storage well heads, using gas leak detection technology such as infrared imaging.
- ◆ Require ongoing verification of the mechanical integrity of all gas storage wells.
- ◆ Require ongoing measurement of annular gas pressure or annular gas flow within wells.
- ◆ Require regular testing of all safety valves used in wells.
- ◆ Establish minimum and maximum pressure limits for each gas storage facility in the state.
- ◆ Require each storage facility to establish a comprehensive risk management plan that evaluates and prepares for risks at each facility, including corrosion potential of pipes and equipment.

Once the proposed emergency regulations are submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL), OAL will post notice of the emergency rulemaking on its website. OAL will have 10 working days to review the regulations. OAL will field public comments on the proposed regulations, and will consult with DOC regarding

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any response to comments. If OAL approves the rulemaking package, the interim rules will be in place at the end of the 10-day review.

Members of the public can submit comments within five calendar days of OAL's posting of the proposed emergency regulations on the OAL website via mail, FAX or email:

Mail: OAL Reference Attorney, 300 Capitol Mall, Suite 1250, Sacramento, California 95814.

FAX: (916) 323-6826

E-mail: staff@oal.ca.gov

A copy of comments submitted to OAL also must be submitted to the DOC:

Mail: Department of Conservation, 801 K Street, MS 24-02, Sacramento, CA 95814, Attention: Gas Storage Facility Regulations.

Fax: (916) 324-0948.

E-mail: DOGGR_GasStorageRegs@conservation.ca.gov.

OAL will confirm that the agency has received the comment before considering it. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 55, subdivision (b) (1) through (4), the comment must state that it is about an emergency regulation currently under OAL review, and include the topic of the emergency.

"We will initiate the process to update permanent regulations for natural gas storage, which will include a significant opportunity for public review and input, in the coming weeks," Marshall said.

Background information about the ongoing Southern California Gas Company leak at Aliso Canyon is available on the DOC web site. Many state agencies have a role in the response to the leak. Regular updates and background information on the situation are available at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services website here.

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