



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION NEWS RELEASE

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## STATE ANNOUNCES COMPREHENSIVE NATURAL GAS STORAGE AND INSPECTION MANDATES

SACRAMENTO — In response to the declaration of a state of emergency at Aliso Canyon, the California Department of Conservation (DOC) today announced a host of new regulations to strengthen state oversight of oil and gas storage in California including multiple testing, inspection and monitoring requirements for all wells in the state.

“These regulations are in effect immediately and require all gas storage companies to complete enhanced inspections and testing at every gas well in California,” State Oil and Gas Supervisor Ken Harris said. “We intend to make these emergency regulations a permanent requirement in California and are committed to strong oversight measures that help ensure the health and safety and environmental protection of this state.”

Emergency regulations to regulate California natural gas storage facilities took effect today after approval by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The emergency regulations were generated in response to 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 DOC submitted the draft emergency regulations to the OAL on January 15.

The emergency regulations will be in effect for six months, but can be extended if necessary. The development of permanent regulations will include a public comment period.

Governor Brown’s emergency proclamation 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.

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*The Department of Conservation’s mission is to balance today’s needs with tomorrow’s challenges and foster intelligent, sustainable, and efficient use of California’s energy, land, and mineral resources.*

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- ◆ 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.

Background information about the ongoing Southern California Gas Company leak at Aliso Canyon in Los Angeles County 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 web site [here](#).

The new regulations have been distributed to all oil and gas companies in California and are posted [here](#).

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