



Notice of Availability and Public Meetings

**Environmental Impact Report
Aliso Canyon Turbine Replacement Project
Proposed by Southern California Gas Company
Application No. A.09-09-020**

California SCH #2010101075

To: All Interested Parties/Readers of the Draft Environmental Impact Report
From: Andrew Barnsdale, California Public Utilities Commission, EIR Project Manager
Subject: Notice of Availability and Public Meetings, Draft Environmental Impact Report
Date: For the Proposed Aliso Canyon Turbine Replacement Project
April 4, 2012

On September 28, 2009, Southern California Gas Company (applicant) filed Application No. A.09-09-020 with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the construction and operation of the Aliso Canyon Turbine Replacement Project (project). The purpose of the proposed project is to comply with the terms of a settlement agreement implemented by CPUC decision D.08-12-020 while maintaining or improving the reliability and efficiency of Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Field (storage field) operations. To carry out this purpose, the proposed project would replace the existing, obsolete, gas turbine-driven compressors at the storage field with electric-driven compressors, and increase natural gas injection capacity at the storage field to 450 million cubic feet per day.

The CPUC, as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for consideration of the proposed project.

A. Proposed Project Description and Location

The main proposed project site is located within the storage field. The storage field is approximately 3,600 acres in size and is situated in the Santa Susana Mountains approximately 20 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. Most of the storage field site is located in unincorporated Los Angeles County; the southernmost and easternmost parts of the storage field are located in the City of Los Angeles, and its address, 12801 Tampa Avenue, is within the City of Los Angeles. South of the storage field site are the communities (each within the City of Los Angeles) of Porter Ranch, Granada Hills, Chatsworth, and Northridge.

The existing Aliso Canyon Plant Station (Plant Station) includes a compressor station with three gas turbine-driven compressors, an operations facility/control center, a main office building, a crew-shift building, and injection and withdrawal pipelines. A single-circuit, 16-kilovolt (kV) distribution line provides electrical power to the storage field's facilities. A single-circuit, 66-kV subtransmission line crosses the southern half of the storage field through an easement granted to Southern California Edison (SCE) by the applicant. New and modified SCE electric service facilities, both on- and offsite, would also be required to provide power for the proposed project.

Components of the proposed project that would be constructed and operated at the storage field by the applicant include:

1. A new, electric-driven Central Compressor Station at the Plant Station site to replace the existing compressors, including three variable frequency drive compressor trains, compressors, piping, coolers, and other required equipment;
2. Relocated office facilities. The existing trailers at the Plant Station site would be replaced by new, permanent office and crew shift buildings at a location in proximity to the proposed Central Compressor Station;
3. Relocated guardhouse. The new guardhouse would be located 500 feet north of the existing guardhouse to relieve traffic congestion at the facility entrance; and
4. A new, four circuit, approximately 1,200-foot, 12-kV Plant Power Line that would provide dedicated electric services to the proposed Central Compressor Station. The Plant Power Line would be interconnected from the proposed SCE Natural Substation to the Central Compressor Station, and would be owned by the applicant.

Components of the proposed project that would be constructed and operated by SCE at and in the vicinity of the storage field would include:

1. A new, 56-megavolt-ampere, 66/12-kV substation (Natural Substation), which would be constructed and operated at the storage field on an approximately 1-acre site. This project component would be constructed and owned by SCE;
2. Upgrades of up to 8.2 miles of electrical subtransmission lines in the area of the proposed project, along segments of SCE's Chatsworth–MacNeil–Newhall–San Fernando 66-kV Subtransmission Line and MacNeil–Newhall–San Fernando 66-kV Subtransmission Lines. Upgrades would consist of reconductoring (conductor wire replacement), and tower/pole replacement. This project component would be constructed and owned by SCE;
3. Installation of up to 28.4 miles of telecommunications cable on existing structures in the area of the proposed project. This project component would be constructed and owned by SCE; and
4. Upgrades (installation of new equipment) at three existing SCE substations (Newhall, Chatsworth, and San Fernando Substations) that support the two existing SCE 66-kV subtransmission lines. This project component would be constructed and owned by SCE.

B. Significant Adverse Environmental Impacts from the Proposed Project

The Draft EIR has identified no significant and unavoidable adverse impacts from the proposed project. Potentially significant impacts with regards to Aesthetics; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources; Greenhouse Gases; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Noise; Public Services and Utilities; and Transportation and Traffic that would result from construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed project were identified. With the implementation of mitigation and applicant proposed measures, impacts related to these resource areas would be less than significant. All other project impacts were determined to be less than significant, or reduced to a less than significant level with the implementation of the mitigation and applicant proposed measures in the Draft EIR. No portion of the proposed project would be located on a hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

C. Environmentally Superior Alternative

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15126.6, the Draft EIR analyzes a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project. Among those alternatives analyzed for the proposed project include a design alternative (Alternate Compressor Drive Type, a Non-wires Alternative), a routing alternative (Telecommunications: Sylmar Substation to San Fernando Substation), and a No Project Alternative. Because the proposed project, during operations, would avoid or reduce long-term impacts from air pollutant emissions and result in a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in comparison to the design alternative, and construction noise from the routing alternative would impact fewer sensitive noise receptors, the proposed project with the routing alternative has been identified as the Environmentally Superior Alternative.

D. Public Review Period/Draft EIR Information

The CPUC will receive comments on the Draft EIR for a 45-day period starting April 4, 2012, and ending May 22, 2012. A telephone hotline for project information has been established at (877) 676-8678. Faxes may be sent to (415) 398-5326. Email queries and comments may be sent to AlisoCanyonNG@ene.com. Written comments may be sent to:

Aliso Canyon Turbine Replacement Project
505 Sansome Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94111

Information about the proposed project, including the environmental review process, the Draft EIR, and the Final EIR will be posted on the Internet at: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/ene/aliso_canyon/aliso_canyon_home.html. The Draft EIR will also be placed in three repository sites to allow the public access to the document. EIR-related documents, including this Draft EIR and the Final EIR will be made available upon their release to the public at these locations:

San Fernando Library
217 North Maclay Avenue
San Fernando, CA 91340
(818) 365-6928

Newhall Library
22704 W. Ninth Street
Santa Clarita, CA 91321
(661) 259-0750

Simi Valley Library
2969 Tapo Canyon Road
Simi Valley, CA 93063
(805) 526-1735

E. Public Hearings

Following the release of the Draft EIR, the CPUC will hold two public meetings to explain the proposed project, discuss the proposed project's significant impacts and receive comments on the Draft EIR from the public (see table below).

Time, Date, and Location of Public Meetings

Time	Date	Location
From 6:30 to 9:00 PM	Wednesday, May 2, 2012	Wiley Canyon Elementary School, 24240 La Glorita Circle, Newhall, CA 91321
From 6:30 to 9:00 PM	Thursday, May 3, 2012	Porter Valley Country Club, 19216 Singing Hills Drive, Northridge, CA 91326