Energy Agencies Hold Workshop to Discuss Action Plan to Preserve Southern California Energy Reliability This Winter

Sacramento, Calif. – State and local energy agencies will hold a workshop Friday to discuss a plan to help preserve reliability of natural gas and electrical service this winter for Southern California in light of the current operational limitations at the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility. Aliso Canyon is prohibited from injecting and storing more natural gas until a comprehensive safety review is completed and the facility’s wells are deemed safe or removed from service.

Staff from the California Energy Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, California Independent System Operator, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will present the plan, which was released earlier this week.

The action plan found that while risks to energy infrastructure still exist due to the uncertainty of weather and system conditions without Aliso Canyon, conservation and other mitigation measures will help to meet the energy needs of Southern California this winter.

The challenges of serving normal winter average demand without using Aliso Canyon can be resolved by increasing withdrawals from other natural gas fields. For the coldest days, while risk exists, demand can be met by withdrawals from other fields and replacement of lost generation from other resources, according to the plan.

The plan calls for 10 new measures to reduce the possibility of natural gas and electrical interruptions this winter.

WHAT: Key energy agency leaders will discuss action plan

WHEN: Friday, August 26, 2016, 10 a.m. PST

WHERE: Auditorium, South Coast Air Quality Management District, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar

WHO: Robert Weisenmiller, chair, California Energy Commission
Michael Picker, president, California Public Utilities Commission
Steve Berberich, president and chief executive officer, California Independent System Operator
Michael Webster, executive director of power system engineering and technical services, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

The action plan and companion technical assessment can be downloaded here. More details about the public workshop can be found here.