

MLC/oma 8/25/2011



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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking on the Commission's Own Motion to Adopt New Safety and Reliability Regulations for Natural Gas Transmission and Distribution Pipelines and Related Ratemaking Mechanisms.

Rulemaking 11-02-019
(Filed February 24, 2011)

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP

TO ALL PARTIES:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California has set a two-day workshop in the above-entitled matter beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day on September 26-27, 2011, in Hearing Room A, Commission Courtroom, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California. Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Jean Vieth will be the workshop facilitator. An agenda is attached to this notice.

If you have questions about the workshop date, time, or place, or about the subject of the workshop, contact ALJ Vieth [xjv@cpuc.ca.gov; 415-703-2194] or Allen Benitez, Utility Safety and Reliability Branch, Consumer Protection and Safety Division [ab2@cpuc.ca.gov; 916-928-2271].

Workshops may be attended by the public.

BY ORDER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

R.11-02-019 MLC/oma

Dated August 25, 2011, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MICHELLE COOKE
Michelle Cooke, Interim Director
Consumer Protection and Safety
Division

ATTACHMENT

Agenda: Natural Gas Emergency Response Planning Workshop

Rulemaking 11-02-019

September 26-27, 2011

Background:

On February 2, 2011, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission or CPUC) opened Rulemaking (R.) 11-02-019, our “forward-looking effort to establish a new model of natural gas pipeline safety regulation applicable to all California pipelines.” (R.11-02-019 at 1.)

One essential part of this undertaking is an examination of the ways utilities and the CPUC currently interact with emergency response authorities and how such interaction may be improved. In response to direction in Commissioner Florio’s scoping memo for this rulemaking and in coordination with ALJ Bushey, the assigned ALJ, the Commission’s Consumer Protection and Safety Division is convening this workshop to assess how “natural gas system operators [might work] more closely with first responders.” (Scoping Memo and Ruling of Assigned Commissioner, June 16, 2011, at 6.)

The scope and schedule for the two-day agenda follows.

Agenda: Natural Gas Emergency Response Planning Workshop

September 26, 2011	
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<u>Introductions & Overview</u> Welcome and introduction of program, goals, and format to identify issues and discuss recommendations for improved emergency response to natural gas emergencies.
9:30 am – 9:40 am	<u>Break</u>
9:40 am – 10:50 am	<u>Educational Agenda: The Natural Gas System</u> An overview of the natural gas system, system operations, and abnormal conditions that can result in emergency situations. Covers pipeline operations, control valves, pipeline marking and mapping, and issues requiring emergency response.
10:50 am – 11:00 am	<u>Break</u>
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<u>Educational Agenda: Natural Gas Technical Panel</u> Interactive question and answer session with an expert panel of utility and regulatory natural gas experts.
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<u>Lunch</u>
1:30 pm – 1:50 pm	<u>Technical Agenda: Role of CPUC in Natural Gas Safety</u> The role of the CPUC in regulation, safety, inspection and audit, and rulemaking.
1:50 pm – 2:00 pm	<u>Break</u>
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	<u>Technical Agenda: Emergency Plans and Training</u> An overview of emergency plans and available training for natural gas emergencies.
2:30 pm – 2:40 pm	<u>Break</u>

2:40 pm – 3:40 pm	<u>Technical Agenda: Natural Gas Emergency Response</u> An overview of the emergency response process including notifications, communications, utility issues, police issues, fire issues, medical issues, and first responder safety.
3:40 pm – 3:50 pm	<u>Break</u>
3:50 pm – 4:50 pm	<u>Technical Agenda: Emergency Response Technical Panel</u> Interactive question and answer session with an expert panel of utility and emergency responders.
4:50 pm – 5:00 pm	<u>Review and Plan for Day 2</u>

Agenda: Natural Gas Emergency Response Planning Workshop

September 27, 2011	
9:00 am – 9:15 am	<u>Day 2 Overview</u> Review of Day 1 and plan for Day 2 activities.
9:15 am – 10:30 am	<u>Rulemaking Agenda: Infrastructure and Mapping</u> Interactive session to discuss and collect recommendations regarding natural gas infrastructure and mapping issues.
10:30 am – 10:45 am	<u>Break</u>
10:45 am – 12:00 pm	<u>Rulemaking Agenda: Communications</u> Interactive session to discuss and collect recommendations regarding natural gas emergency notifications and communication issues.
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	<u>Lunch</u>
1:30 pm – 2:45 pm	<u>Rulemaking Agenda: Training</u> Interactive session to discuss and collect recommendations regarding natural gas emergency response training issues.
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	<u>Break</u>
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	<u>Rulemaking Agenda: Review of Recommendations</u> Interactive session to discuss and review recommendations from all areas of natural gas emergency response.
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm	<u>Workshop Evaluation and Closing</u>

(END OF ATTACHMENT)