

## **California Public Utilities Commission**

505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PRESS RELEASE

Docket #: Res G-3522

## CPUC AUTHORIZES WINTER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FOR SOCALGAS CUSTOMERS

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 10, 2016 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today approved programs for consumers of Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) to promote reductions in gas consumption on peak use days. The programs are part of the state's ongoing efforts to ensure natural gas reliability to the Southern California areas impacted by SoCalGas' Aliso Canyon Storage Facility leak.

The CPUC directed SoCalGas to propose Demand Response programs that can be in place for customer use by December 1, 2016. The programs, which to the CPUC's knowledge are the first gas Demand Response programs undertaken in the U.S., are as follows:

- Natural Gas Conservation Notification Campaign: Stimulates voluntary residential
  customer reduction in gas usage on days when SoCalGas system reliability is anticipated to
  be stressed by issuing public notifications through mass media marketing channels calling for
  conservation. The campaign will also promote the use of SoCalGas advanced meter-enabled
  tools that help customers better manage and control their natural gas use, including the
  SoCalGas weekly Bill Tracker Alerts.
- Noncore, Non-Electric Generation, Natural Gas Conservation Notifications: Encourages
  voluntary natural gas conservation from large commercial customers by posting "Natural Gas
  Conservation" notifications to SoCalGas' electronic bulletin board on days when the
  SoCalGas system reliability is anticipated to be stressed. These notifications will be
  supplemented by communication to large commercial customers through direct contact by

SoCalGas Account Executives to the large commercial customers requesting they reduce gas consumption to further decrease stress on the gas system.

 Natural Gas Conservation Pilot Rebate Program: Evaluates the cost-effectiveness and savings impacts of providing incentives for gas usage reductions in response to Natural Gas Conservation Notifications. Pilot participants who opt in to the Natural Gas Conservation Pilot Rebate Program will receive event email notifications customized for the program and will be eligible for a rebate.

Said Commissioner Liane M. Randolph, "These programs demonstrate our continued attention to managing the natural gas system while Aliso Canyon is offline and undergoing a continuing safety evaluation by the CPUC and the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources. I appreciate SoCalGas's efforts to encourage customers to manage their use of natural gas through demand response, and I especially appreciate customers who participate."

The proposal voted on is available at:

 $\underline{http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M169/K670/169670925.PDF}.$ 

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