



Feb. 26, 2016

MEDIA STATEMENT TO CLARIFY ELIGIBILITY TO CONTINUE OR TO RESUME ALISO CANYON TEMPORARY RELOCATION

Yesterday's decision by the Los Angeles Superior Court ordered SoCalGas to continue relocation services to residents of Porter Ranch and surrounding areas who chose to relocate from their community. SoCalGas has filed an appeal based on the substantial public body of scientific data from local, independent air quality and health agencies that have demonstrated that the air quality in the area does not pose any long-term health risk, and that the air has now returned to the typical air quality levels that existed prior to the leak. These health agencies say that with the leak gone, related short-term symptoms should be gone. Air quality levels in and around Porter Ranch are consistent with levels before the leak occurred.

In response to numerous media inquiries, SoCalGas issued the following statement:

“We recognize the timing of yesterday’s court ruling caused a great deal of confusion for residents who were staying in hotels as part of our temporary relocation program. Despite having weeks to raise their concerns and after having assured residents that the air in Porter Ranch was safe at a press conference just last Thursday, Los Angeles County waited until the day residents were scheduled to check-out of temporary housing to bring a court case seeking an extension. In addition, by the time Judge Elihu M. Berle ruled in the case, many temporarily relocated residents had already checked-out and returned home.

“To clear up confusion for residents who stayed in temporary housing or who checked-out of temporary housing and are looking to re-enter the program, the following policy will be applied:

1. Relocated residents who continuously remained in hotels may continue to stay in their hotels, pending the outcome of the appeal.
2. Any residents who were part of the temporary housing program and checked out of the program between February 18, 2016 (the day the leak was permanently sealed) and February 25, 2016 (the date of yesterday’s decision by the court) are eligible to re-enroll in the program, pending the outcome of the appeal.
3. All residents who choose to continue to stay in temporary housing must complete the online form, at www.alisoupdates.com.

“If rooms are not available for returning residents, SoCalGas will attempt to locate another hotel room as we did under the previous relocation plan. Given that the order was issued on the day the temporary housing program was scheduled to end, we cannot guarantee that rooms will be immediately available. Qualifying residents may, however, make their own arrangements at a hotel or with friends and family and seek reimbursement according to the relocation plan.

“We disagree with the court’s decision because it creates further confusion and uncertainty as the community is trying to return back to normal. Based on extensive testing and analysis by health and air quality experts, including the County, there is no reason to believe that it is unsafe for residents to return home. We are surprised by the County’s sudden shift in policy and disappointed by the judge’s decision. We have appealed that decision. Should SoCalGas be successful in that appeal, residents currently enrolled in temporary housing and those who choose to re-enroll in the program will be given 48 hours’ notice to return home.

We will continue to do what we can to eliminate confusion and make this process as simple as possible for affected residents.

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