Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Leak

Preliminary Estimate of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

(As of January 8, 2016)

On October 23, Southern California Gas informed the State of a natural gas leak at its Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility. The Air Resources Board released an initial estimate of the leak rate on November 20. The leak rate from Aliso Canyon is expected to vary as attempts are made to stop the leak and as gas is withdrawn from the reservoir. It is therefore necessary to have ongoing measurements to ensure a robust estimate of the total emissions of the gas to the atmosphere can be made.

Periodic measurements are carried out by Scientific Aviation using small planes equipped with monitors to measure methane. This measurement approach is described in more detail in the report from November 20. These periodic measurements provide an emission rate at the time the flights are conducted and may vary considerably. They do however provide a sense of what is happening with the leak and can be used to develop a very rough estimate of the total methane leaked to date. The time series collected to date suggests the emission rate of the leak is decreasing as the reservoir is being depleted.

Continuous measurements are also being collected as part of the State's Greenhouse Gas Monitoring network and through other complimentary measurement efforts. Final results based on these measurements will take time to process and will not be available until several months after the leak has been plugged. Once completed, the estimate calculated from these data will be the most robust quantification of the overall leak.

The table below provides the up-to-date history of estimates based on the measurements made from the plane flights. The estimate of the amount of methane that has leaked since the last flight and the cumulative amounts are calculated assuming that the leak rate is constant between flights. As a result, it is only a preliminary estimate at this time. It will be replaced with a more refined estimate once the leak is plugged and the computer models needed to process the continuous measurements described above are used.

Date of Flight	Leak Rate Measured [kilogram methane per hour]	Expected Error in Measurement [kilogram methane per hour]	Assumed number of days at this leak rate	Estimate of leaked methane for this period* [kilogram methane]	*Very Rough Estimate of* Cumulative Leak** [billion cubic feet of natural gas, bcf]	*Very Rough Estimate of* Cumulative Leak*** [$MMTCO_2e$]
November 7th, 2015	44,000	±5,000	17	17,952,000	1.0	0.4
November 10th	50,000	±16,000	11	13,200,000	1.8	0.8
November 28th	58,000	±12,000	12	16,704,000	2.7	1.2
December 4th	43,000	±5,400	7	7,224,000	3.2	1.4
December 12th	36,000	±6,800	9	7,776,000	3.6	1.6
December 23rd	30,300	±6,100	14	10,180,800	4.2	1.8
January 8th, 2016	23,400	±4,600	8	4,492,800	4.4	1.9

* This assumes a constant leak rate since the last measurement.

** Assumes natural fas from the leak is 94% methane, and methane has density of 0.01858 kg/cu-ft

*** Using the 100 year global warming potential for methane of 25. From the date of the leak through the day of the flight. This number will be updated based on continuous measurements once the leak is plugged