SNAPS Inglewood Oil Field Communities: January 2025 Community Meeting Notes

Link to the January 2025 Data Analysis Update Link to the SNAPS IOF Community Resource Webpage

Plain text: community comments Italicized text: CARB/OEHHA responses

January 22, 2025: Culver City Veterans Memorial Building, Rotunda Room

Health Risk Assessment

Q: How are the health guidance values determined? Who or what are the subjects of these health studies or chemical exposure studies?

A: Health guidance values (HGVs) are values below which health effects are not expected to happen, and they are determined by staff at the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). HGVs are often determined from studies using animal models, such as mice. Because animals are not exact models for human health, "uncertainty factors" are included in the calculation to ensure that the HGVs are conservative and health protective. The smallest number of animals are used in these health studies in part to ensure that the highest ethical and animal welfare standards are met through all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Q: Why isn't human data considered when health guidance values are determined?

A: When human epidemiological data have been available, OEHHA staff have included this data when determining the final HGVs.

Q: How long are "short-term" or "acute" exposures? What chemicals were included for the acute health risk assessment analysis?

A: "Acute," or "short-term," exposures range from one (1) hour to 24 hours. The list of air pollutants included in the acute health risks assessment analysis can be found in the January 2025 Data Analysis Update.

Q: Why aren't long-term exposures included in the data update?

A: Long-term, or "chronic," exposures will be included in the cumulative final data analysis. A full 12 months of air pollutant data are needed to correctly calculate long-term health risks.

Q: Are the air quality standards based on worker exposures?

A: Ambient air quality standards are established to protect the health of the most sensitive groups, such as children, in communities. Epidemiological data from both workers and the general population were included when developing both the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and the California Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Q: Were endocrine disrupters detected at levels that may impact community health?

A: Health risk assessment results from endocrine disruptors will be included in the next data update.

Q: What is the cumulative health impact of living in the city?

A: SNAPS will look at risks from cumulative exposure to pollutants near IOF for acute and chronic non-cancer effects and for cancer. However, this study does not include risks from other, non-chemical stressors. OEHHA and scientists around the globe are currently looking at how to incorporate risks from non-chemical stressors (e.g., food insecurity, housing instability) into risk assessment.

Q: How can we reduce our exposures to chemicals at home?

A: A few ways to reduce air pollutant exposure at home include regularly changing HVAC filters, purchasing or building air cleaners, and using the air recycle feature while driving.

Stationary Monitoring and Air Pollutants

Q: Are the community sensors working as well as you would expect for low-cost monitors?

A: Community sensors are a pilot program for SNAPS, and we are still determining how well the sensors have worked and what kinds of useful data they can provide. In addition to locating sensors with six residents, we have set up some sensors near the SNAPS stationary monitoring trailers to see how well they perform over time relative to regulatory-grade equipment.

Q: Can the stationary monitoring equipment capture methanol?

A: SNAPS is not currently able to monitor for methanol due to a lack of analytical capabilities.

Q: What diameter are the metal particulates sampled?

A: Different SNAPS collection methods collect different types of metal particulates. The metal particulates detected are either PM_{2.5} (particulate matter with diameters of 2.5 micrometers or less) or total suspended particles.

Q: On the SNAPS data display website, the VOC data is missing. Is this a data collection issue?

A: The collected speciated VOC data at the stationary trailers is stored for later analysis and does take significant time to quality control and validate. For the community sensors, there will be some data gaps for total VOCs due to internet connectivity issues.

Q: When high levels of methane are found, do you also look for VOCs?

A: Yes, we often look for VOCs when we find a methane spike. The ratio of methane-to-VOCs can be specific to oil/gas sources, but there are often other sources of VOCs, such as vehicles, that can affect this ratio. Once all data are collected, a contractor will be completing a Positive Matrix Factorization source apportionment analysis, using a combination of the methane, VOCs, metals, and other monitored air pollutants.

Q: What are the results for methane? Do concentrations decrease as you move away from the oil field? Is this trend statistically significant?

A: The stationary monitoring trailers were roughly equal distances from the oil field, so distance-related conclusions will be limited. Around the stationary sites, the preliminary methane concentrations were an average of 2.0-2.2 parts per million (ppm), in line with the global average. Methane detections were associated with sources both upwind and downwind of a SNAPS monitoring sites. When the full dataset is collected, SNAPS staff will conduct statistical tests to compare the methane concentrations between the western and eastern sides of the oil field.

Mobile Monitoring

Q: What was the diameter/range of the mobile monitoring area around the oil field? How were the mobile monitoring routes chosen?

A: Staff performed mobile monitoring mostly within two (2) miles of the Inglewood Oil Field boundary. While the routes were limited to drivable roads, mobile monitoring measurements were taken multiple times in neighborhoods on all sides of the oil field.

Q: When and for how long are the mobile monitors stationary during sampling? Can the results be seen while driving?

A: Most of the pollutant results can be seen in real time by those in the vehicle, except for benzene, toluene, and xylenes (BTX). For BTX sampling, the mobile monitoring platform must stop for 15-30 minutes. The platform keeps track of where it's been and can return to specific locations for additional monitoring.

Inglewood Oil Field

Q: How close are oil wells allowed to be near community homes?

A: (Answer from Erica Blyther, Petroleum Administrator for City of LA) In 2022, California passed SB 1137, which prohibits the issuance of well permits and the construction and operation of new production facilities within 3,200 feet of a sensitive receptor. Sensitive receptors include residences, schools, community resource centers, health care facilities, live-in housing, and businesses open to the public. At this time, no additional wells can be drilled in Culver City.

Q: How many active wells are there at the Inglewood Oil Field?

A: There are approximately 400 active wells and 150-200 idle wells at the Inglewood Oil Field (IOF).

Q: Is there an oil well next to Taco Bell?

A: (Answer from Erica Blyther, Petroleum Administrator for City of LA) Oil wells are located all around the city and can be seen on the Los Angeles Oil and Gas Wells Web Map online.

Q: Who can I call to report odors?

A: Odor complaints can be submitted to 1-800-CUT-SMOG (1-800-288-7664) or cut_smog@aqmd.gov.

Q: Who can I call to submit a question, comment, or concern about the Inglewood Oil Field?

A: The contact information for Sentinel Peak Resources (SPR) is located at https://inglewoodoilfield.com/contact-us/ and includes the phone number 1-800-766-4108.

SNAPS Program and Scope

Q: Does the SNAPS program include community anecdotes from the UCLA study?

A: The Baldwin Hills Health Assessment & Environmental Justice Study (i.e., UCLA study) is different from the SNAPS air monitoring program and includes a different data set, which includes analyses of birth outcomes, blood pressure, lung function, and survey results.

Q: How did you choose the monitoring sites?

A: Between 2019 and 2020, SNAPS staff held four (4) separate community meetings to hear and collect site recommendations from those that live near the Inglewood Oil Field. Staff narrowed down the suggested sites to the final two (2) locations based on logistics (e.g., trailer size, electricity requirements) and location relative to communities, the oil field, and other potential sources of air pollution.

Q: Do you test soil?

A: The SNAPS program only monitors air pollutants, but LA county does do soil testing as part of the Baldwin Hills Community Standards District.

Q: Is the air quality near Inglewood Oil Field similar to the air quality from Lost Hills? Are any of the results from the Inglewood Oil Field not in line with expectations based on the results from Lost Hills?

A: Direct comparisons between the two locations cannot be made until the full dataset has been collected near the Inglewood Oil Field. Speciated VOCs and many months of toxics and criteria pollutant data have not yet been investigated, and these data will provide for a much more comprehensive picture of air quality and health impacts in these communities.

Data Timeline

Q: Will there be sampling data at West LA College from September 2023 to December 2023?

A: The SNAPS stationary monitoring trailer was moving from Marycrest Manor to West LA College during the September 2023 to December 2023 time period. Data from West LA College was collected from January 2024 to February 2025, so the Fall 2024 time period was included at both stationary sites for a side-by-side comparison. Q: The oil field had a power outage problem in July 2024, but I didn't see any monitoring data related to that time period.

A: The SNAPS equipment at Sentinel Peak Resources was off for a short time during the power outage, and the mobile monitoring platform was not in LA at that time. Equipment at West LA College continued to operate during this time, and based on a preliminary analysis, staff didn't see anything abnormal in the real-time data at that site.

Q: How much longer will the monitors be operating and how will the fire-related data be analyzed?

A: The Sentinel Peak Resources and West LA College stationary sites will continue monitoring into February 2025 to capture the fire-related air pollutant data. This time period may be analyzed as a case study for the cumulative data analysis.

Future Data Analysis

Q: Will you compare SNAPS air monitoring data with data from other regional sites?

A: Comparisons with data from regional sites will be included in the next data update.

Q: What is the timeline on the community seeing the final data update?

A: The timeline for writing the final update will take a minimum of one (1) year for multiple reasons. The air monitoring equipment was kept for a few extra weeks at Sentinel Peak Resources to collect data related to the December 2024-January 2025 fires. Staff will take up to six (6) months to finish data quality control and quality assurance process, and several additional months to finish the air quality, health risk assessment, and the source apportionment analyses. The writing and internal review processes also take time to complete. SNAPS staff will continue to communicate and engage with the community as the draft final data update is prepared and becomes available for public comment. Missing data from Community monitoring.... Gisthis an issue of collection or data display?

2) What is the diameter of the mobile monitoring location?

3) What ? diameter are metal particulates?

4) Does this meeting include community anecdotes from UCLA Study? 5) Will there be Sampling Sept-Dec @ WLAC?

6) Is there an oil well next to Taco Bell?

7) How close are oil wells allowed to be near community homes?

8) When and for how long are the mobile monitors stationary during sampling?

1) Was there any additional monitoring during oil field power outage incident? 10) How do you choose the monitoring sites? 11) Can our analyzers capture Methanol? 12) Is there a Statistically Significant difference between pollutants measured near oil field vs further away? What are the observed results? 13) Were endocrine disruptors detected at levels that may impact community health? 14) Will you compare this data to other regional Sites? Do you test soil?

15) What is the time line on seeing the data in the final report. (6) Comparing this study to Lost Hills, how does if is the air quality Similar? 17) Are the heath lair quality standards Strictly related to employment exposure? 18) How are the health guidance values determined? Who/what are the subjects of these studies? How is agent pre-existing health conditions, and considered?

19) How long is "Short-term"? What chemicals are included in the acute study? 20) Are the oil wells still active at SPR? 10F? 21) Who can I call to report odors? 1-800-CUT-SMOG 22) Are there no serious health concerns? 23) What is the cumulative impact of living in the city?

24) How much longer will monitors be sampling and how will we analyze fire data? 25) IS OEHHA going to incorporate human Sampling? 26) SPROIL REPORTING 1 - 800 - 766 - 410827) How can we reduce our exposure at home?