

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY**

**CPUC-SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION DATA REQUEST 1**

**RE: VENTURA COMPRESSOR STATION**

**DATE REQUESTED: August 19, 2021**

**DATE RESPONDED: August 19, 2021**

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**QUESTION 1:**

Did SoCalGas provide info to Ventura School District or Somis of the existing of SoCalGas' pipelines at the site where the school was built?

**RESPONSE 1:**

SoCalGas assumes that the question is related to the EP Foster Elementary School that is located on Olive Street immediately east of the Ventura Compressor Station. The EP Foster Elementary School was constructed across from the compressor station in 1929 and has been a neighbor of the facility for 92 years. SoCalGas' predecessor in interest began installing compression equipment at the Ventura Compressor Station in 1923. We are unable to confirm whether pipeline information was shared with the EP Foster Elementary School in 1929.<sup>1</sup>

The Somis Union School District was established in 1895 and moved to its present location at 5268 North Street in the community of Somis in 1924. Pipelines near the school district property were installed in 1927, 1944 and 1951 and have been safely maintained since that time. We are unable to confirm whether pipeline information was shared with the Somis Union School District in 1927, 1941 and 1951.

SoCalGas provides pipeline information on our website accessible to the public here: <https://www.socalgas.com/stay-safe/pipeline-and-storage-safety/natural-gas-pipeline-map>

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<sup>1</sup> The Ventura Unified School District originated in 1968 and the Ventura Compressor Station is not within the Somis School District. <https://www.venturausd.org/mound/AboutUs/MoundHistoryHeritage.aspx>. <http://somisusd.org/parent-student/school-boundaries/> Accessed online August 19, 2021.

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**QUESTION 2:**

Are there any compressor stations close to schools and homes in your service territory?  
Please elaborate

**RESPONSE 2:**

SoCalGas/San Diego Gas & Electric<sup>2</sup> operate ten compressor stations on its integrated natural gas system. Of the ten, there are three compressor stations located within 0.25 mile of sensitive land uses:

- Adelanto Compressor Station located in Adelanto, California. Sensitive land uses include the Adelanto Immigration and Customs Enforcement Processing facility with capacity to house 1,940 individuals. The nearest residence is approximately 6,200 feet to the north.
- Blythe Compressor Station located in Blythe, California. Sensitive land uses include residences. The nearest residence is approximately 1,100 feet to the northwest.
- Ventura Compressor Station. Sensitive land uses include residences, the E.P. Foster Elementary School, and the Boys and Girls Club of Ventura. The nearest residence is adjacent to the facility's eastern property line.

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<sup>2</sup> SoCalGas and San Diego Gas & Electric are both wholly owned subsidiaries of Sempra, a California corporation.

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**QUESTION 3:**

Pease define and describe a compressor station's "Incineration zone" and explain how Ventura compressor station differ or similar?

**RESPONSE 3:**

We understand the public's concern for safety at the Ventura Compressor Station and all SoCalGas facilities. The safety and wellbeing of our employees, customers and the public are foundational to our company. SoCalGas employees also live in the communities we serve, including the City of Ventura.

There is no statutory or regulatory definition of "incineration zone" and as such it is not possible to define and describe how the Ventura Compressor Station could differ or be similar.

The Ventura Compressor Station meets all applicable federal and state requirements for safety. For many decades, SoCalGas has safely operated the Ventura Compressor Station. SoCalGas incorporates Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) requirements, Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) requirements, National Code Standard requirements and CPUC General Orders and regulations when engineering, designing, and constructing compressor stations. SoCalGas also incorporates best available technology and safety systems when retrofitting or redesigning its facilities and equipment to provide multiple layers of redundancy when it comes to system safety and reliability.

SoCalGas performs specific testing and inspections at the Ventura Compressor Station as required by the Code of Federal Regulations. We monitor the Ventura Compressor Station 24/7/365 either in person or remotely, including piping, safety and fire equipment. In addition, we coordinate with first responders and are in regular communication with the Ventura City Fire Department (VCFD), which is the primary emergency response agency for an emergency natural gas related incident at the Ventura Compressor Station. The VCFD inspects the compressor station annually and reviews fire safety measures and infrastructure. The VCFD also reviews and approves the facility's hazardous materials business plan (HMBP) and spill prevention, control and countermeasure plan (SPCC). In advance of routine maintenance activities, SoCalGas will contact the VCFD to maintain open communication. Additionally, SoCalGas' Emergency Services Department conducts annual briefings with first responders in Ventura and across its service territory so that they are educated about how to respond to a natural gas incident.

In addition to the safety controls at the Ventura Compressor Station, the integrity of the pipeline systems that bring natural gas to homes and businesses is also under careful

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and routine surveillance. SoCalGas has about 5,000 trained employees ready to respond quickly to incidents throughout our service territory. More information about SoCalGas' safety measures can be found on our Safety website: <https://www.socalgas.com/stay-safe>

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**QUESTION 4:**

Are there existing risk assessments of a worst-case scenario, and type of an emergency plan in place to alert and protect the neighborhood?

**RESPONSE 4:**

As noted above, we coordinate with first responders and are in regular communication with the VCFD. In the event of a natural gas incident, SoCalGas works closely with first responders to address the particular circumstances of that incident, including communication with the neighborhood. In the event of an incident involving the release of hazardous materials, SoCalGas would implement the contingency plan as outlined in the facilities Hazardous Materials Business Plan. In the event of a spill or release that meets agency reporting criteria, the Certified Uniform Program Agency (CUPA) and other applicable agencies, such as the California Office of Emergency Services, would be notified.

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**QUESTION 5:**

Does today's regulation/SoCalGas' guideline allow the compressor station to be built in its current location, or is it "grandfathered in" because of the history of the site?

**RESPONSE 5:**

As previously noted, SoCalGas' Ventura Compressor Station complies with applicable requirements for a facility in its current location. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes school siting guidelines and recommends that for new schools, an evaluation of all pipelines (oil pipelines, chemical pipelines, high pressure natural gas pipelines, high pressure water lines) within 1,500 feet of a school should be performed. The guidelines do not include any specific guidance about compressor stations. The EPA guidelines also state the evaluation should also include power lines and cell phone towers<sup>3</sup>. The guidelines do not preclude locating a new school within 1,500 feet of a natural gas pipeline.

In addition, the project site is designated by the Ventura General Plan as "Industry" and zoned "M-2 General Industrial." Energy facilities are generally classified as industrial uses and would typically be found consistent with industrial zoning.

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<sup>3</sup> US EPA. 2015. "Environmental Siting Criteria Considerations." Accessed online August 19, 2021.

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**QUESTION 6:**

Is it true that in other states, similar projects are not allowed within one, two, or even six miles of a residential area?

**RESPONSE 6:**

SoCalGas only operates natural gas infrastructure and facilities in California, consistent with applicable federal and State of California requirements. We are unable to address project requirements outside of the State of California.

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**QUESTION 7:**

Why are larger safety zones not being considered since more modern facilities have higher leakage given their high capacity of compression? Is it true that new facilities has high risk of gas leak?

**RESPONSE 7:**

We are not aware of any studies that suggest that modern facilities have higher leakage. The Ventura Compressor Station is in full compliance with the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) statewide Oil and Gas Methane Regulation, which is overseen by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD). Quarterly leak inspections using sensitive detection equipment occur at the facility. These leak inspections will continue on existing equipment and on any new equipment.