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SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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July 17, 2013

Franz C. Cheng, Sr. Regulatory Analyst
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Cheng:

**CARB-OEHHA FINAL REPORT TO CPUC
BIOGAS: CONSTITUENTS OF CONCERN
RULEMAKING TO ADOPT BIOMETHANE STANDARDS - R.13-02-008**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), I would like to express our concern with the final report (Report) submitted by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding health risks associated with biogas injection into common carrier natural gas pipelines as required under Assembly Bill 1900 (AB 1900 - Gatto, 2012).

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 [AB 939], as amended), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated, cost-effective, and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

As required under AB 1900, OEHHA and CARB were tasked with compiling information related to the potential health risks associated with the injection of treated and upgraded biogas, otherwise known as biomethane, into common carrier pipelines and to report the results to CPUC. The Report provides CPUC with a list of constituents of concern

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found in biomethane and acceptable levels of those constituents; identifies potential exposure scenarios for utility workers and end-users; and suggests monitoring, testing, and reporting protocols for the protection of public health. The Report will help CPUC develop regulations for AB 1900 and was to be completed on or before May 15, 2013.

The Task Force has reviewed the Report and has concerns related to, among other things, the recommended level of frequency for the monitoring of the biomethane that is to be injected into pipelines. Moreover, the Task Force concurs with several of the recommendations provided by a collection of utility companies (namely Southern California Gas Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, and Southwest Gas Corporation) in a prepared testimony provided to CPUC dated July 8, 2013.

The Report recommends operators of major sources of biogas (landfills, dairies, and sewage treatment plants) monitor the levels of certain constituents of concern in injected biomethane on a quarterly or annual basis. This frequency is partly based on concerns over the costs related to the monitoring and how it might hamper the economic viability of biomethane projects. The Task Force does not believe risks to public health should be determined on the economic viability of biomethane projects. The Task Force strongly recommends that public health should be the main consideration for the frequency of monitoring. Economic viability should only be considered by the facility after a monitoring, testing, and reporting protocol has been established that can provide a high level of assurance that the public's health and safety can be protected effectively. In addition, any testing and reporting protocol established should include, at a minimum, an annual comprehensive biomethane analysis to ensure that all constituents of concern are being adequately monitored. This method would ensure public health and safety are protected while protecting the integrity of pipelines. Moreover, utility companies should have the ability to install additional monitoring equipment at the interconnect to warn suppliers of constituent levels as well as establish supplier specific constituent shut-off limits.

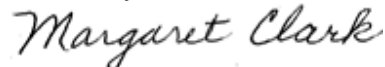
In regards to reporting and record keeping requirements recommended in the Report, there is a need for clarification of which entity is responsible for the testing of biomethane and which entity is responsible for the testing of untreated biogas. The testing of biomethane should be the responsibility of the utilities while the testing of untreated biogas should be the responsibility of the supplier.

Lastly, the Task Force concurs with the utility companies' testimony in regards to disallowing hazardous waste landfills to be connected to the common carrier pipelines. In order to avoid the introduction of gaseous constituents from hazardous sources into the pipelines, regulations should be developed to define hazardous waste landfills and include provisions that require biomethane suppliers to disclose whether they have ever accepted hazardous waste.

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Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, P.E., of the Task Force and a party on the R.13-02-008 case, as listed on the official CPUC Service List, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste management Task Force and
Council Member, City of Rosemead

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cc: Each Member of the CPUC
Honorable John Wong, Administrative Law Judge, CPUC
California Air Resources Board (Paul Milkey)
California Environmental Protection Agency (Dr. Andy Salmon)
Each Member of Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force