



Notice of Staff Workshop on Natural Gas Pipeline Safety and Integrity Management Current Research and Future Research Needs and Opportunities

California Energy Commission staff will conduct a workshop to discuss the current research efforts and future needs and opportunities for research on Natural Gas Pipeline Safety and Integrity Management technologies, tools, practices and risk assessments. California Energy Commissioners may attend the workshop. The workshop will be held on:

Thursday, July 16, 2015

9:30 a.m.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

First Floor, Art Rosenfeld Hearing Room

1516 Ninth Street

Sacramento, California

Wheelchair Accessible

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Background

The safety and security of California's vast natural gas pipeline infrastructure are priorities for California. However, current natural gas pipeline safety and integrity management technologies have limitations and are expensive. Therefore, research is needed to develop more reliable and cost-effective technologies that will assess the integrity of the pipeline infrastructure and sense disturbances in the surrounding areas.

Prior Energy Commission-funded projects assessed the use of pipeline inspection technologies nationwide and performed a gap analysis to identify those technologies not used by California pipeline operators. Emerging technologies were also assessed to identify those that can provide the most benefits to current integrity management and inspection practices in California. Currently funded projects are developing and demonstrating low-cost, long-life reliable sensors for both inspection and continuous monitoring of pipelines as well as detection and prevention of right of way (ROW)

violation – a major cause of pipeline damage and failure. Still there remains a need for improving the accuracy, durability, and reliability of tools available to pipeline operators that provide improved information on, and control over, California’s pipeline network. Also there is a need for improved ROW monitoring technologies. By analyzing risks and providing operators with early notification of potential external threats, the occurrence of failures in California’s pipeline network can be reduced, thereby improving the safety and integrity of the natural gas pipeline infrastructure in California. This will also address heightened public concern regarding pipeline safety.

The workshop will begin with a staff presentation providing an overview of the natural gas pipeline safety and integrity management research program at the Energy Commission. A series of presentations from natural gas pipeline safety program funded research project principals, natural gas utilities, California Public Utilities Commission, Gas Technology Institute, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and Pipeline Research Council International will follow. To wrap up the workshop, Energy Commission staff will host a panel discussion of potential research initiatives to address natural gas pipeline safety and integrity management issues, research gaps, and future research needs and opportunities.

The Energy Commission intends to release a competitive solicitation in the fall of 2015 to solicit proposals on natural gas pipeline safety, integrity management, and risk assessments addressing various research gaps and needs. This workshop will assist staff in developing the scope of work for this upcoming solicitation.

Public Comment

Oral comments. Staff will accept oral comments during the workshop. Comments may be limited to 5 minutes per speaker. Any comments may become part of the public record in this proceeding.

Written comments. Written comments will be accepted at the workshop. Additionally, written comments can be submitted via e-mail to Avtar Bining by 5:00 p.m. on July 20, 2015. Please note that written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (e.g., address, phone, email) become part of the viewable public record. This information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and any other search engines.

The Energy Commission encourages comments by e-mail. Please include your name and any organization name. Comments should be in a downloadable, searchable format such as Microsoft® Word (.doc) or Adobe® Acrobat® (.pdf). Please indicate “Natural Gas Pipeline Safety and Integrity Management Research” in the subject line. Send comments to: Avtar.Bining@energy.ca.gov.

Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts

The Energy Commission’s Public Adviser’s Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to

participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser, Alana Mathews, at PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4489 or (toll free at (800) 822-6228).

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at lquiroz@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

If you have questions on the subject matter of this meeting, please contact Avtar Bining at Avtar.Bining@energy.ca.gov.

Remote Attendance

You may participate in this meeting through WebEx, the Energy Commission's online meeting service. Presentations will appear on your computer screen, and you may listen to audio via your computer or telephone. Please be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

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VIA TELEPHONE ONLY (no visual presentation): Call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada). When prompted, enter the unique meeting number: 921 612 757. International callers may select their number from <https://energy.webex.com/energy/globalcallin.php>

VIA MOBILE ACCESS: Access to WebEx meetings is available from your mobile device. To download an app, go to www.webex.com/products/web-conferencing/mobile.html.

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Date:

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Deputy Director

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