



Addressing the Potential Loss of Gas Service for a Portion of the Santa Nella Community

Investigation (I.) 22-09-011

What is this proceeding about?

The Commission adopted an Order Instituting Investigation on September 15, 2022 to explore future energy options for 280 lots within a subdivision located in the unincorporated community of Santa Nella in Merced County. The current gas service provider, SNME Inc. (SNME), intends to terminate gas services to these residences, which will leave residents without gas for heating and cooking.

Background

The natural gas service provider, SNME, is a private corporation that owns the underground gas pipelines and customer meters that serve sub-metered gas to 280 manufactured homes in Santa Nella. Originally, all the homes in the subdivision were part of a mobile home park (MHP), but now only 47 lots remain part of the MHP. The remaining 233 were sold to individual owners. SNME receives gas from a Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) master meter located in the center of the subdivision.

The Santa Nella Mobile Home Park (47 of the 280 lots in the subdivision) is classified as high priority for conversion to utility-provided service in the CPUC Mobilehome Park Conversion program, but non-MHP lots are ineligible for conversion.

In May 2022, SNME informed the CPUC and PG&E that it intends to terminate existing gas service for the 280 Santa Nella lots. In response, the CPUC opened a proceeding to examine future energy options for Santa Nella at a comparable or higher level of safety than residents currently receive.

What has happened in this proceeding so far?

The CPUC released an OII in September 2022 directing PG&E to respond to preliminary scoped questions to inform what the most feasible and timely next steps may be. PG&E and the Public Advocates Office have filed comments in response to the issues outlined in the OII.

Currently, three options are being considered for alternative energy services:

1. Replace the gas infrastructure serving the lots and take over provision of gas service.
2. Replace the gas infrastructure serving the lots, take over provision of gas service, and install new electrical infrastructure (including conduit, transformers, meters, and other necessary equipment) to accommodate a future switch to all-electric service at each parcel.



3. Switch to all-electric service through upgrading electrical infrastructure, panels, and providing new, all-electric appliances.

The new solution will come at no direct cost to Santa Nella residents. In January 2023, PG&E filed an Opening Brief and a separate response to a request for additional information, outlining specific details related to each of these options. The CPUC will work with PG&E to identify a permanent energy solution for the Santa Nella residents affected by this potential loss of gas service.

Next steps and timeline

The CPUC and PG&E will host a community meeting to inform affected residents about the situation and the options under consideration. The CPUC will also host two virtual Public Participation Hearings, where the public can voice their thoughts on the issue and options under consideration (see below for more information). Following these meetings, the CPUC will issue a proposed decision in spring 2023 and a final decision directing PG&E to begin work on a long-term energy solution for affected Santa Nella residents.

How can my voice be heard?

In-person location for the February 9th Community meeting: Attend the community meeting on February 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM at Romero Elementary School (13500 W Luis Road, Santa Nella, CA 95322). Spanish translation will be available.

Remote Public Participation Hearings: The assigned Administrative Law Judge will preside at these hearings and a court reporter will transcribe the hearings.

When: February 15, 2023 at 2:00 PM *and* 6:00 PM

Where: Remote access via webcast or phone. Please visit <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PPH/> for more information on how to participate. These hearings will also be archived for further viewing.

Submit electronic public comments: Customers can submit electronic public comments specific to this proceeding and review all other public comments submitted by using the “Add Public Comment” button on the Public Comment tab of the docket card for I.22-09-011 at: <https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/I2209011>

View documents related to this Investigation: To view the Order Instituting Investigation and all formal filings, including the proposed decision when issued, go to <https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/p/I2209011> and select the “Documents” tab at the top of the page.

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