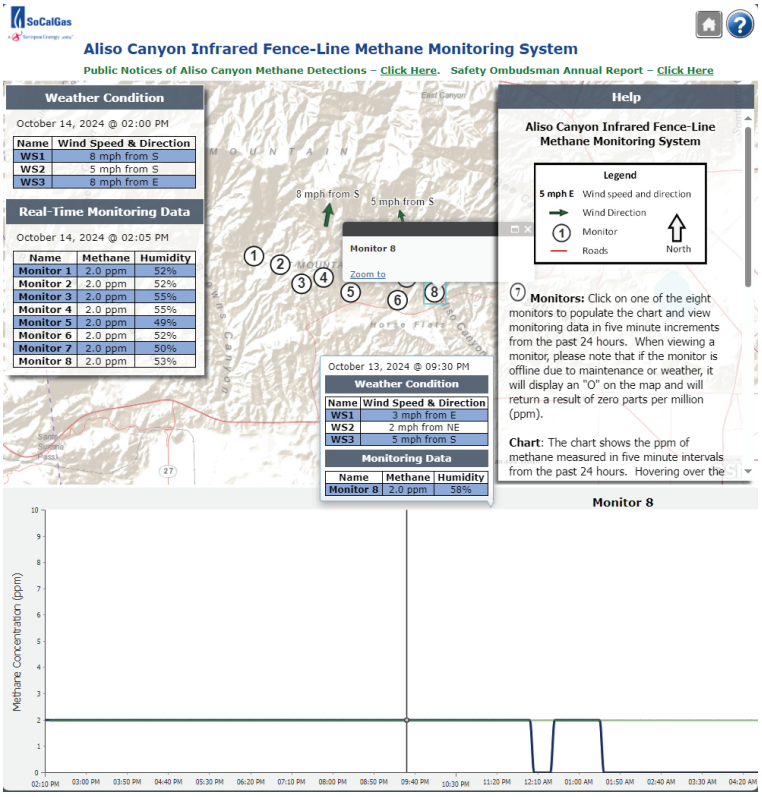
Fence-line Methane Monitoring

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated as of October, 2024



Who monitors the fence-line data?

» The data from our fence-line system is monitored around-the-clock, 365 days a year by our trained technicians in our operations center.

Does SoCalGas change the data before it is displayed online?

» No. The data from the monitors goes directly into the system, which is then updated online. We do not alter the data.

What actions does SoCalGas take if the readings increase?

» If our fence-line system detects levels averaging at or above 8 parts per million for 20 or more minutes, we send out a team of technicians to that site to investigate. The technicians use sensitive hand-held technology that can detect methane at levels below what human senses can detect.

» We investigate because methane readings can potentially be impacted by weather conditions, such as rain, fog, and dust, which may interrupt the infrared beam. A temporary increase in the readings on one monitor may not necessarily mean that elevated levels of methane are present.

» If we do detect any sort of leak or emission, we would begin our normal process to address the leak and appropriately notify agencies and the community.

Why does the system often show a steady reading at 2 parts per million? Shouldn't there be some natural variation?

» The California Air Resources Board has identified that 1.9 – 2 parts per million (ppm) is the normal background level of methane for the Porter Ranch Area. As such, we can expect that the normal level is what would be detected most of the time.

» Essentially, a flat line at 2 ppm means that the monitors do not detect any methane above normal background levels.

What does it mean when the readings show at 0 ppm?

» If the monitor is offline due to maintenance or weather, it will display an "O" on the interactive map and will return a result of zero parts per million (ppm).

» Readings can be impacted by weather conditions, such as rain, fog, and dust, which may interrupt the infrared beam and cause a monitor to appear offline.

How does the fence-line system work?

- The eight infrared monitors installed at Aliso Canyon measure the parts per million (ppm) of methane in the air by sending an infrared beam between a sender and receiver.
- The interactive web page displays a map indicating the location of the fence-line methane monitoring devices. By clicking on any of the fence-line monitor icons, you can view a chart with data showing monitored methane levels in parts per million, recorded in five-minute increments over the previous 24 hours.
- In addition to methane levels, the online tool displays data from three weather stations in the area. Clicking on a weather station icon, or moving the computer mouse over the methane data charts, allows you to see weather data, including wind speed and direction.
- There is a help guide on the right side of the screen to assists you with understanding the system. If a monitor is offline due to maintenance or inclement weather, the screen shows an "O" for offline.

What is the purpose of the system?

- We installed the fence-line monitoring system as an additional safety feature at Aliso Canyon. The system helps monitor the amount of methane in the air along the border of the facility nearest the Porter Ranch community.
- The system is not designed to be our primary source of detecting a leak. We have pressure monitors installed on every well at the facility and we monitor that data around-the-clock, too. Additionally, our trained technicians do inspections of each well four times a day, including the use of sensitive infrared cameras to detect leaks smaller than what human senses can detect.

Does the system monitor for benzene or other molecules?

- No. Like other monitoring systems in the community, this is specifically a methane detection system. It does not monitor for other molecules or compounds.

Where can I get additional information?

- For more information on the fence-line system, please visit **socalgas.com/AlisoFenceline**.
- For more information on air quality measurements in the Porter Ranch area, please visit the South Coast Air Quality Management District website: **aqmd.gov**.