ALISO CANYON DISASTER HEALTH RESEARCH STUDY COMMUNITY MEETING #4 SUMMARY

MEETING PURPOSE

The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) held the fourth Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study (Health Study or Study) community meeting to share two preliminary analyses results (listed below), provide Study updates, and present and hear feedback about risk assessment methodology.

Preliminary results were presented to the community prior to submittal to a scientific journal for peer review and publication, as is required by the contract terms that govern the Study.

MEETING FORMAT, ATTENDANCE, AND AGENDA

The meeting was held on November 14, 2024, 6:00-8:00 pm, in person and online via Zoom. The in-person meeting was held at The Vineyards at Porter Ranch Community Room, 20065 Rinaldi St, Northridge, CA.

The meeting agenda included:

- Preliminary Results
    - Focus Groups on Mental Health Effects of the Disaster
    - Characterizing the Gas Blowout Using Satellite Images
- Study Updates
- Risk Assessment Workshop

UCLA presented each topic, followed by questions and answers. A summary of the Focus Group analysis was posted on the meeting page and sent to registered participants in advance of the meeting.

Approximately 46 community members attended the meeting (16 in person and 30 online). Following the meeting, a recording and the PowerPoint presentation were posted to the Study website meeting page at: https://alisostudy.ucla.edu/events/meeting-4/.

Technical issues made parts of the meeting difficult to hear for online participants. However, UCLA addressed the sound issues and will post the improved video online and will inform the community of its availability.

MEETING CONTENT AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

A summary of materials presented during the meeting and community comments for UCLA consideration are included below.

FOCUS GROUPS ON MENTAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF THE DISASTER

Kathleen Lynch, MS, MPH, Social and Behavioral Sciences, New York University, presented preliminary results of focus groups conducted to explore the disaster's impact on mental health and well-being. More specifically, the focus groups were conducted to inform development of

the mental health sections of the resident health survey. Ms. Lynch reviewed a summary of mental health symptoms experienced at the time of the disaster as well as long-term impacts identified by focus group participants, and how the resident health survey was refined to reflect these findings.

CHARACTERIZING THE GAS BLOWOUT USING SATELLITE IMAGES

Dr. Michael Jerrett, PhD, UCLA Principal Investigator, presented preliminary results of an analysis of satellite and aircraft images taken during the disaster. He noted that the purpose of this analysis is to help identify the extent of the methane plume emitted during the blowout.

STUDY UPDATES

The UCLA team updated the community on the status of data procurement and the resident health survey and clinical recruitment. Key progress and updates include:

- UCLA received new exposure data from Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas). This is a very large data set, and we are in the process of reviewing it.
- We acquired California Cancer Registry data for the cancer analysis.
- The California Biobank Program is pulling blood samples for the metabolomics analysis, however this has been slowed due to short staffing at the State.
- We are continuing to conduct indoor and outdoor air monitoring and residential natural gas sampling.
- The Birth Outcomes Analysis paper is likely to be published soon.
- We received data for the healthcare utilization analysis from Quest.
- Recruitment of 2,000 people for the resident health survey will begin in early 2025.
- UCLA will select 600 people for clinical assessments, from among the resident health survey participants who are interested in being screened for assessment.

A list of the chemicals that can be detected through metabolomics tests that will be performed on the collected blood samples is available on the study website: https://alisostudy.ucla.edu/study-overview/study-approach/metabolomics-analysis/

More detail on clinical assessments is available: https://alisostudy.ucla.edu/study-overview/study-approach/clnical-assessments/

RISK ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

The purposes of this workshop were to explain the risk assessment objectives and methodology; to present a preliminary list of chemicals to be examined for potential exposures and associated risks; and to involve the community on assumptions, data collection, and the identification of chemicals of concern while the analysis is underway. Thomas McKone, PhD, University of California, Berkeley, and Diane Garcia-Gonzales, PhD**,** UCLA, presented the above information. Publicly available documents that provide data for this analysis are available for review at Zotero Library Link: https://www.zotero.org/groups/5004679/aliso_health_study/library

Drs. McKone and Garcia-Gonzales invited community members to share:

- Modifications or suggestions for listed model inputs,
- Additional datasets for consideration in the risk assessment, and
- Additional chemicals of concern for consideration in the risk assessment.

Community participants provided the following comments:

- The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) reports facility emissions. It would be beneficial to cross reference the chemicals of concern list with AQMD's emissions list.
- Two or three years after the blowout, some community members paid for hair, blood, and urine tests. These test results document the chemicals we were exposed to.
- SoCal Gas Company vents the 115 wells at the facility without a regular schedule or notice to the community. They also conduct an acid wash that emits more chemicals into the community. Perhaps UCLA could obtain a schedule of when they vent and acidize, and conduct sampling on those days.
- Around two months after the blowout, residents complained to AQMD about an oily residue on playground equipment and other outdoor items. If this residue was analyzed, it might be helpful to assess the more volatile chemicals circulating at that time.

UCLA will take the above comments into consideration.

UCLA welcomed those who have further information or suggestions to contact them via the study email at https://alisostudy.ucla.edu/contact/.