

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 7, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1905

Introduced by Assembly Member Wilk

February 11, 2016

An act to add Section 3270.7 to the Public Resources Code, relating to oil and gas, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1905, as amended, Wilk. Natural gas injection and storage: study.

Under existing law, the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources in the Department of Conservation regulates the drilling, operation, maintenance, stimulation, and abandonment of oil and gas wells in the state. Existing law requires the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to complete an independent scientific study on well stimulation treatments, as specified.

The bill would require the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, on or before July 1, 2017, to cause to be conducted, and completed, an independent scientific study on natural gas injection and storage practices and facilities, as specified.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 3270.7 is added to the Public Resources
2 Code, to read:

3 3270.7. On or before July 1, 2017, the Secretary of the Natural
4 Resources Agency shall cause to be conducted, and completed, an
5 independent scientific study on natural gas injection and storage
6 practices and facilities. The scientific study shall evaluate the
7 hazards and risks and potential hazards and risks that natural gas
8 injection and storage pose to natural resources and public,
9 occupational, and environmental health and safety. The scientific
10 study shall do all of the following:

11 (a) Follow the well-established standard protocols of the
12 scientific profession, including, but not limited to, the use of
13 recognized experts, peer review, and publication.

14 (b) (1) Identify and evaluate *natural gas storage injection* well
15 construction standards and operation techniques for both existing
16 *natural gas storage* injection wells and for newly drilled *natural*
17 *gas storage* injection wells.

18 (2) Determine the average age of injection wells at gas storage
19 facilities in the state and evaluate whether the construction
20 standards used in aging wells are adequate to continue to protect
21 ~~public~~ *natural resources and public, occupational, and*
22 *environmental health and safety.*

23 (c) Identify the proximity of existing natural gas storage facilities
24 in the state to ~~population centers~~ *residential development* and the
25 risks posed by those facilities to nearby ~~populations.~~ *residential*
26 *development.*

27 (d) (1) Identify the chemicals currently used as odorants at
28 natural gas storage facilities in the state and the public health and
29 environmental risks posed by those odorants.

30 (2) Evaluate potential alternatives to the odorants currently in
31 use to determine if there are any feasible alternative odorants that
32 pose a lower risk to public and environmental health.

33 (e) Evaluate the current state regulatory structure for natural
34 gas injection and storage facilities and recommend measures that
35 would better protect ~~public~~ *natural resources and public,*
36 *occupational, and environmental health and safety while still*
37 *maintaining energy reliability.*

1 (f) Clearly identify where additional information is necessary
2 to inform and improve the analyses.

3 SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
4 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within
5 the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into
6 immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

7 Due to a ~~currently ongoing~~ leak of primarily methane, a potent
8 greenhouse gas, from the Southern California Gas Company Aliso
9 Canyon SS-25 well that began on October 23, 2015, the unknown
10 effects on the community of and surrounding Porter Ranch must
11 be studied at the earliest possible time, independent from Southern
12 California Gas Company and in order to prevent future harm from
13 similar events, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.