



Brief Summary of Community Feedback

Overall Feedback

A range of feedback from the public has been collected at community events and at Community Advisory Group meetings. Common themes described below outline the most frequently submitted sentiments.

The concerns of utmost importance to the community are the long-term health impacts and cancer incidences from the blowout. Other commonly voiced concerns address general physical and mental health issues, impacts to children and research on those who have relocated or passed away in the years following the disaster. The community is looking forward to their participation in the study and is looking for transparency, open communication and answers from the Health Research Study and the SOC.

Below is a brief list of the main questions, comments and concerns received during 2019.

Project Background

- Questions about symptoms and symptom trackers.
- Questions regarding treatments for possible effects.
- Concern regarding the timeframe (i.e., how useful the Health Research Study is three years after the blowout).
- Concern regarding SoCalGas' involvement in the Health Research Study.
- Requests for a review of Dr. Nordella's research.
- Questions about the lack of local universities included in the Scientific Oversight Committee.

The Health Research Study

- Request for a degree of community control or management of the Health Research Study.
- Request for Public Health to create a public symptom timeline, map and data registry.
- Request for Public Health to provide timelines so the community can understand what is happening and when.
- Concern regarding the physical effects of the blowout, including cancer clusters and worsening of existing medical conditions.
- Comments expressed concern over a believed higher than average number of cases of cancer in the community, as well as general higher rates of illnesses and symptoms in the affected area.

- Concerns about the social and mental health effects of the disaster.
- Request for mental health impacts to be a topic of interest in the Health Research Study.
- Questions on how to participate in the Health Research Study.
- The community wants to share information and anecdotal evidence they have already collected. They are committed to providing this input to researchers.
- Researchers should communicate with the community in a variety of ways, including social media, email, text, school notice and postings in doctors' offices.
- Public Health should release research scopes for public comment prior to the commencement of solicitation.
- Concerns about researchers who may be biased.
- Questions about the operations of the SOC.
- Request for increased transparency, including SOC operations.
- While SoCalGas has not shared the exact chemical composition of the gas that was leaked, the community wants transparency on unknown chemicals potentially affecting their health.
- Concerns about conducting a Health Research Study without knowledge of the chemical components of the (proprietary) gas.