



# CITY OF YORBA LINDA

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**BUILDING DIVISION (714) 961-7120**

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Procedure No. 006

Policy Subject: Methane Gas Investigation  
Adopted as Administration Policy P-26 June 15, 2003  
Revised: 6-15-12

Policy: Methane Gas Investigation and Mitigation for New or Existing Structures to be Expanded

Number: P – 26  
Page: 1

Issue Number: 2  
Dated Adopted: 6-15-03  
Revised: 6-15-12

## I. PURPOSE

To provide an effective and practical method of safeguarding persons and property against potential methane gas hazards for both new construction and additions to existing structures when the structure is to be constructed on parcels with the potential for methane gas exposure due to underground conditions related to either active, inactive or abandon oil well operations.

## II. BACKGROUND

The City of Yorba Linda has adopted an amendment to Section 1115—DEVELOPMENT ON OR NEAR LAND CONTAINING OR EMITTING TOXIC, COMBUSTIBLE OR FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS, GASES OR VAPORS, of the California Fire Code. This amendment enables the City to generate and enforce standards that require investigation and mitigation of any enclosed structure to be constructed or added to, located where the structure may be subject to subsurface quantities of methane gas.

## III. POLICY

The City shall enforce the California Fire Code as Amended in an expeditious manner in accordance with the procedure as set forth in this policy.

## IV. PROCEDURE

1. New structures or additions to existing structures shall be subject to review for the presence of methane gas in the soil and any associated mitigation measures shall be required as indicated below;

- a. Additions to existing enclosed structures when the original structure was constructed with no methane mitigation provisions do not require any review or methane mitigation protection.

**Exceptions:**

- i. Attached additions exceeding 1,000 SF in area to the footprint.
- ii. The footprint of the addition is within 25' of a recorded oil well location.

- b. Any addition or new construction which is completely open with no enclosed areas where methane gas may collect or concentrate does not require any review or methane mitigation protection.
    - c. An addition, of any square footage, to an existing structure where the existing structure is provided with methane gas mitigation provisions shall also be provided with methane gas mitigation provisions.
    - d. Any detached new construction which creates enclosed spaces located within the field boundaries of the Yorba Linda oil field as shown on the map from the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) dated August 7, 2003 shall be subject to a methane gas review. This requirement shall not apply to swimming pools, fences, retaining walls, open patio covers or similar structures which do not contain enclosed space capable of collecting or concentrating methane gas.
2. The final determination as to whether a project is subject to a site methane gas review shall be the sole responsibility of the Building Division of the City of Yorba Linda. The determination shall be based on the location of the project as shown on the field boundaries map as provided by the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources dated August 7, 2003. The actual site investigation and testing shall be performed at the owners expense by a California licensed Professional Engineer qualified in the field of methane review and mitigation. The determination as to whether a licensed Professional Engineer is qualified to perform site investigation and testing shall be determined by OCFA.
3. Any project found to be within the field boundaries, as shown on the DOGGR map, shall be forwarded to the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) for the specific requirements of the review of the site. OCFA shall determine the extent of the review. OCFA shall provide the following information back to the Building Division of the City;
  - a. Should it be determined that no review is required, OCFA shall provide written confirmation to the City that no review is required. Such confirmation shall be on a form from OCFA with their logo affixed with a formal statement reflecting the type of review provided and that no further review is required.
  - b. Should it be determined that a methane gas review is required, OCFA shall provide the applicant with the requirements to perform a methane gas review. The applicant shall then perform the site methane gas review as specified by OCFA.
  - c. Should the methane gas review determine that methane is not present in sufficient concentrations to require mitigation of the proposed structure, OCFA shall provide written confirmation to the City that no methane gas mitigation is required. Such confirmation shall be on a form from OCFA with their logo affixed with a formal written statement reflecting the type of review provided and that no further review or mitigation is required.
  - d. Should the methane gas review determine that methane is present in sufficient concentrations to require mitigation of the proposed structure, OCFA shall provide the applicant with all information and requirements to provide the required mitigation. All plans and documents shall be stamped, signed and dated by a California licensed Professional Engineer. Upon final review and approval by OCFA, two copies of the appropriate documents stamped approved by OCFA, including any specific required construction plans, shall be presented to the City for inclusion with the approved building permit package for permit issuance.

- e. The Building Division of the City may not issue any permits for construction on any site which has been identified as requiring a site methane gas review until such time as either a form stating that no methane gas mitigation is required or construction documents for methane gas mitigation, stamped approved by OCFA, have been presented to the Building Division.

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Building Official

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