

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
SmartMeter™ CPUC Staff Inquiry
Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	DRA_002		
PG&E File Name:	SM CSI_DR_DRA_002-Q25		
Request Date:	December 21, 2010	Requester DR No.:	DRA_2
Date Sent:	March 29, 2011	Requesting Party:	DRA
PG&E Witness:	N/A	Requester:	Tom Roberts

QUESTION 25

Is it possible for gas to vent or leak into or through the meter index or SmartMeter module?

ANSWER 25

No. PG&E's SmartMeter™ module is attached to the outside of the meter. Further, the SmartMeter™ module is sealed so gas from the meter cannot enter the module.

However, it is possible for small amounts of gas odors to come from the meter itself. All gas meters are designed so that the measuring index shaft extends through the meter cover to rotate the usage dials of the meter index. There are various mechanisms that prevent gas passing through the meter itself from leaking through the index drive shaft port. Some designs block gas from getting into the meter cover, others seal the drive shaft or both. In any design, it is possible that a seal failure could potentially result in a small amount of gas escaping into the atmosphere.

PG&E surveys all gas meters on a regular basis (some annually, all within five years) to locate and schedule any necessary repairs.

ANSWER 25 -- SUPPLEMENTAL

The original February 9, 2011 response to this data request is provided above. DRA subsequently noted that the original response of "No" is contradicted in the body of the response; gas can leak through the seals, even though the meter is designed to prevent/limit leaks.

To clarify, PG&E's response of "No" was intended to apply to gas leaking into the meter index or into the SmartMeter™ module. Although gas can leak into the atmosphere through a seal failure in the meter, gas cannot leak into the meter index or into the SmartMeter™ module.