STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

ORDER TO:
PLUG AND ABANDON WELLS,
DECOMMISSION ATTENDANT FACILITIES, AND
RESTORE WELL SITE

NO. 1140
Dated: December 7, 2018
Operator: Tettra Oil Company, T1525

BY
Kenneth A. Harris Jr.
STATE OIL AND GAS SUPERVISOR
I. Introduction

The State Oil and Gas Supervisor (Supervisor), acting through the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division), may order the plugging and abandonment of a well or the decommissioning of a production facility that has been deserted, whether or not any damage is occurring, or threatened, by reason of that deserted well. (Pub. Resources Code [PRC], § 3237, subdivision (a).) When the operator of an idle well has not filed a long-term idle well management plan with the Supervisor, the operator’s failure to pay annual fees for the idle well is conclusive evidence of desertion. (PRC, § 3206, subds. (a) and (c); emphasis added).

Based on the Division’s records, Tetra Oil Company is a responsible “operator” (Operator) (as defined in PRC section 3009) and is responsible (as specified in PRC section 3237, subdivision (c)(1)), for the plugging and abandonment of the well(s) on Exhibit A (incorporated herein; the Well(s), the decommissioning of the attendant production facilities (the Facilities), and the restoration of the well site (the Wells and Facilities). Herein, the Supervisor is ordering Operator to do so because the Supervisor has determined, based on information, belief, and the conclusive evidence detailed below, that Operator has deserted the Wells and Facilities.

Therefore, pursuant to PRC sections 3106, 3206, 3224, 3226, and 3237, and as set forth below, the Supervisor is ordering Operator to plug and abandon the Wells and decommission the Facilities according to PRC sections 3208, 3228, 3229, and 3230, California Code of Regulations, title 14, (Regulations) sections 1722, 1723 through 1724.1, 1760, 1775, and 1776, and the conditions included in any permit/approval the Division may issue pursuant to PRC section 3229.

II. Definitions

PRC section 3008, subdivision (a), defines “Well” to mean “any oil or gas well or well for the discovery of oil or gas; any well on lands producing or reasonably presumed to contain oil or gas,” among others.

PRC section 3008, subdivision (d), defines “Idle well” to mean “any well that for a period of 24 consecutive months has not either produced oil or natural gas, produced water to be
used in production stimulation, or been used for enhanced oil recovery, reservoir pressure
management, or injection.”

**PRC section 3008, subdivision (e),** defines “Long-term idle well” to mean “any well
that has been an idle well for eight or more years.”

**PRC section 3009** defines “Operator” to mean “a person who, by virtue of ownership, or
under the authority of a lease or any other agreement, has the right to drill, operate, maintain, or
control a well or production facility.”

**Regulations section 1760, subdivision (k),** defines “Production facility” to mean “any
equipment attendant to oil and gas production…including, but not limited to, tanks, flowlines,
headers, gathering lines, wellheads, heater treaters, pumps, valves, compressors, injection
equipment, production safety systems, separators, manifolds, and pipelines that are not under the
jurisdiction of the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 51010 of the Government Code,
excluding fire suppressant equipment.”

III. **State Oil and Gas Supervisor Authority**

**PRC section 3106** authorizes the Supervisor to supervise the drilling, operation,
maintenance, and abandonment of oil and gas wells to “prevent, as far as possible, damage to
life, health, property, and natural resources; damage to underground oil and gas deposits from
infiltrating water and other causes; loss of oil, gas, or reservoir energy, and damage to
underground and surface waters suitable for irrigation or domestic purposes by the infiltration
of, or the addition of, detrimental substances.”

**PRC section 3224** mandates that the Supervisor “order such tests or remedial work as in
his judgment are necessary to prevent damage to life, health, property, and natural resources; to
protect oil and gas deposits from damage by underground water; or to prevent the escape of
water into underground formations, or to prevent the infiltration of detrimental substances into
underground or surface water suitable for irrigation or domestic purposes, to the best interests of
the neighboring property owners and the public.”

**PRC section 3226** authorizes the Supervisor, based on the Supervisor’s final or affirmed
order, to appoint agents who may enter the well premises and perform necessary remedial work
if the operator did not complete the remedial work as ordered. Any amount the Supervisor
expends to complete the necessary remedial work (which may include penalties and interest)
constitutes a lien against the operator’s real or personal property according to PRC section
3423.

PRC section 3237, subdivision (a)(1), authorizes the Supervisor to “order the plugging
and abandonment of a well…that has been deserted whether or not any damage is occurring or
threatened by reason of that deserted well.” The Supervisor or district deputy “shall determine
from credible evidence whether a well…is deserted.”

IV. Conclusive Evidence of Desertion

The Division’s records show that the Division notified Operator of Operator’s idle well
fee obligations, twice, by U.S. mail. First, the Division sent a revised idle well fee invoice
(“Revised Invoice”) dated June 22, 2018. (See Exhibit B; incorporated herein.) Second, the
Division sent a subsequent, related “Past Due” notice dated August 17, 2018. (See Exhibit C;
incorporated herein.)

Notwithstanding the above notices, Operator has not paid the annual fees required for the
Well(s) under PRC section 3206 (former or current), and has an outstanding balance of
approximately $6,000.00 in idle well fees. Operator’s failure to pay the required idle well fees
for the Well(s) is conclusive evidence of desertion. (PRC, § 3206, subd. (c).)

V. Operator’s Required Actions

For the reasons stated above, the Division has determined that Operator has deserted the
Well(s) and Facilities. Therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Operator plug and
abandon the Well(s) and decommission the Facilities according to PRC sections 3208, 3228,
3229, and 3230, Regulations sections 1722, 1723 through 1724.1, 1760, 1775, and 1776, and
the conditions included in any permit the Division may issue pursuant to PRC section 3229.

VI. Operator’s Appeal Rights

PRC section 3237, subdivision (b), entitles an operator to appeal a Supervisor’s order to
plug and abandon a deserted well. A notice of appeal must be timely made, in writing, and filed

ORDER TO: PLUG AND ABANDON WELLS, NO. 1140
with the Director. (See PRC beginning at PRC section 3350.) To file an appeal, a written notice of appeal may be mailed to the following address:

Department of Conservation
Director’s Office of Appeals
801 K Street, MS 24-03 (Legal Office, Chief Counsel)
Sacramento, California 95814-3530

If Operator does not file a timely written notice of appeal, this Order will become a final order and the Division may contract for performance of the work, pursuant to PRC section 3226, if, within 30 days of this Order, Operator has not, in good faith, commenced the work ordered. Any costs incurred by the Supervisor to obtain compliance with this Order (which may include penalties and interest) will constitute a lien against Operator’s real or personal property per PRC section 3423.

If Operator submits a timely written notice of appeal, it, and interested parties, will receive notice of the appeal hearing date, time, and place. Following the hearing, Operator, and interested parties, will receive a written decision that affirms, sets aside, or modifies the appealed order.

VII. Other Potential Actions to Enforce This Order

Failing to comply with Section V (Operator’s Required Actions) of this Order could subject Operator to further enforcement action. For example, the Supervisor could deny approval of proposed well operations until compliance is achieved. (PRC, § 3203, subd. (c).)

In addition, PRC section 3236.5 authorizes the Supervisor to impose a civil penalty on a person who violates any provision in Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the PRC or any regulation that implements those statutes, and the Supervisor may in the future impose a civil penalty based on the acts and omissions underlying this Order.

Further, PRC section 3236 makes it a misdemeanor for any person who violates, fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of the oil and gas law (statutes and regulations). The misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars.
($100) nor more than one thousand dollars ($1,000), or by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by both the fine and imprisonment for each separate offense. **PRC section 3359** makes it a misdemeanor to fail or neglect to comply with an order of the Supervisor. Each day’s further failure, refusal, or neglect is a separate and distinct offense. **(PRC, § 3359.)**

DATED: December 7, 2018

[Signature]
Kenneth A. Harris Jr.
State Oil and Gas Supervisor

ORDER TO: PLUG AND ABANDON WELLS, NO. 1140
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Exhibit B

Revised Idle Well Fee Invoice
June 22, 2018

Tetra Oil Company T1525
1400 Easton Drive, Suite 152
Bakersfield CA 933099406

REVISED IDLE WELL FEE INVOICE
INVOICE NUMBER: T1525-2018-2127

**Fee letters are being re-issued due to the error in the 2018 Idle Well Fee letters, dated January 19, 2018. Although idle well payment is due by January 31 each year, the Division is allowing Operators until 30 days from the date on this fee letter to respond by either paying the idle well fees due or submitting an Idle Well Management Plan.**

Public Resources Code (PRC) section 3206 specifies requirements for operators to manage their idle wells. No later than **July 23, 2018**, operators must choose one of the following two options for all idle wells in order to satisfy these requirements:

1. Pay an annual fee for each idle well, or
2. File an Idle Well Management Plan for the management and elimination of long-term idle wells, which is subject to approval by the supervisor.

Your idle-well fee calculation is below, and further information on your inventory of idle wells is available from the appropriate Division office or via the internet (http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/idle_well). If you believe this information is in error, please complete and submit the “Inventory Error” form found at http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/idle_well or contact the Headquarters Idle Well Program at (916) 445-9686 or DOGGRIdleWells@conservation.ca.gov.

Idle-Well Fee Calculation
The idle-well fees imposed under PRC section 3206, subdivision (a)(1), are based on the length of time a well has been idle, as follows:

- One hundred fifty dollars ($150) for each idle well that has been an idle well for three years or longer, but less than eight years.
- Three hundred dollars ($300) for each idle well that has been an idle well for eight years or longer, but less than 15 years.
- Seven hundred fifty dollars ($750) for each idle well that has been an idle well for 15 years or longer, but less than 20 years.
- One thousand five hundred dollars ($1,500) for each idle well that has been an idle well for 20 years or longer.
If you choose to comply with PRC section 3206 by paying idle fees, then Division records indicate that your total idle-well fees for 2018 are as follows:

For wells idle 3 years, but less than 8 years: 0 $0

For wells idle 8 years, but less than 15 years: 0 $0

For wells idle 15 years, but less than 20 years: 0 $0

For wells idle 20 years or longer: 4 $6000

Total Fees Due 30 days from the date of this letter: $6000

Idle Well Management Plan
If you are considering an Idle Well Management Plan, please download the appropriate form from the Idle Well webpage (http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/idle_well) or contact any district office. Follow the instructions on the form for submission no later than July 23, 2018.

You must file the total amount of idle-well fees due or an Idle Well Management Plan no later than July 23, 2018. As of the date of this letter, neither fees nor an Idle Well Management Plan have been filed with the Division. If you elect to pay idle-well fees, please send your payment to:

Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources
801 K Street, MS 18-00
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please make idle well fee check(s) payable to: Department of Conservation and indicate the invoice number and “For idle well fees”.

Failure to comply with PRC section 3206 by filing either the total amount of idle-well fees due or an Idle Well Management Plan within 30 days may result in enforcement action. Pursuant to PRC sections 3236.5 and 3237, such enforcement action can include issuance of a civil penalty or an order to plug and abandon wells.

As discussed in Notice to Operators (NTO) 2017-02, new legislation became operative on January 1, 2017, amending the requirements for idle well management, idle well fees, and
well bonding. Please review NTO 2017-02 for details regarding these changes, a copy of which can be found on the Division’s website. The key to successful compliance is planning your strategy early and communicating that strategy with the Division. If you need additional information, please contact the Idle Well Program at (916) 445-9686 or DOGGRIdleWells@conservation.ca.gov.
Exhibit C

Past Due Idle Well Fee
Date: August 17, 2018

To: Tetra Oil Company T1525
1400 Easton Drive, Suite 152
Bakersfield CA 933099406

Re: PAST DUE IDLE WELL FEES for Operator Code: T1525

On June 22, 2018 the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources sent you a 2018 Idle Well Invoice, **INVOICE NUMBER: T1525-2018-2127**, with the required idle well fees due by July 23, 2018. To date, our records show that you have not paid your 2018 idle well fees.

Failure to comply with Public Resources Code (PRC) section 3206 by filing either the total amount of idle-well fees due will result in enforcement action. Pursuant to PRC sections 3236.5 and 3237, such enforcement action can include issuance of a civil penalty or an order to plug and abandon wells.

**PAST DUE AMOUNT: $ 6000.00**

You must file the total amount of idle-well fees due no later than August 31, 2018. Please send your payment to:

Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources
801 K Street, MS 18-00
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please make idle well fee check(s) payable to: Department of Conservation and indicate the invoice number and “For idle well fees”. If you need additional information, please contact the Idle Well Program at (916) 445-9686 or DOGGRIIdleWells@conservation.ca.gov.
PROOF OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL

I declare that I am employed in the County of Sacramento, California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within captioned cause. My business address is 801 K Street, MS 18-05, Sacramento, California 95814. On December 7, 2018, I served the following document(s):

ORDER TO: PLUG AND ABANDON WELLS, DECOMMISSION ATTENDANT FACILITIES, AND RESTORE WELL SITE and ORDER NO. 1140

by enclosing them in an envelope and placing the envelope for collection and mailing by certified U.S. mail on the date and at the below listed address(es) following our ordinary business practices. I am readily familiar with this business’s practice for collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. On the same day that correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the United States Postal Service in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid.

I served the documents on the person or persons below, as follows:

Dianne May Ladd
Tetra Oil Company, T1525
1400 Easton Drive, Suite 152
Bakersfield, CA 93309-9406
Certified Mail Receipt Number:
7016 1370 0000 0837 9316

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on December 7, 2018, at Sacramento, CA.

[Signature]
Rachael Tadlock
Notice of Appeal

to the Director of the Department of Conservation

Instructions

Use of this form is optional. You may use this form to prepare a notice of appeal from the enclosed order. The style and content of this form are only suggestions. You may file a written notice of appeal in a different format.

Box 1: Statement of Intent to Appeal

Operator Tetra Oil Company, T1525 hereby appeals from State Oil and Gas Supervisor Order Number 1140.

Box 2: Basis of Appeal

The reasons for this appeal are as follows:

[Blank lines for text]

(Attach additional pages as necessary.)

Box 3: Contact Information for Operator Representative

Name:

Physical Mail:
(Address)
(City, State, Zip)

Phone: (______) _______ - _______

Email:

Box 4: Certification of Authority

I am the operator named in Box 1, above, or I have authority to act on behalf of that operator for purposes of preparing and filing this notice of appeal.

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ______________________

Printed Name: ____________________________

Affiliation with operator: ____________________________
(e.g., self, owner, president, legal counsel, etc.)

Mail this notice of appeal to the following address:

Department of Conservation
Director's Office of Appeals
801 K Street, MS 24-03 (Legal Office, Chief Counsel)
Sacramento, CA 95814-3530

rev. 11/27/2018
*Sender: Please print your name, address, and ZIP+4 in this box*

Department of Conservation
Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources
801 K Street, MS 18-05
Sacramento, CA 95814-3530
Attn: Rachael Tadlock

# 1140
SEND TO: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

1. Article Addressed to:
   Dianne May Ladd
   Tetra Oil Company, T1525
   1400 Easton Drive, Suite 152
   Bakersfield, CA 93309-9406

   9590 9402 2617 6336 5744 19

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)
   7016 1370 0000 0837 9316

SEND TO: COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
   X

B. Received by (Printed Name)
   [Signature]

C. Date of Delivery
   12/13/20

D. Is delivery address different from item 17?
   Yes

3. Service Type
   □ Adult Signature
   □ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
   □ Certified Mail®
   □ Certified Mail® Restricted Delivery
   □ Collect on Delivery
   □ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
   □ Insured Mail
   □ Insured Mail Restricted Delivery (over $500)

   □ Priority Mail Express®
   □ Registered Mail™
   □ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
   □ Return Receipt for Merchandise
   □ Signature Confirmation™
   □ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Domestic Return Receipt
PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-8053