

Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division  
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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**  
**GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION**

**ORDER TO PAY A CIVIL PENALTY AND PERFORM REMEDIAL WORK**  
**NO. 1492**

**Operator: HOC CA, LLC (11564)**

**Field Name: Edison**

**County: Kern**

## I. Introduction

The State Oil and Gas Supervisor (**Supervisor**), acting through the Geologic Energy Management Division (**CalGEM**), and under the authority of Division 3 of the Public Resources Code (**PRC**; commencing with PRC section 3000) and title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (**Regulations**), may impose a civil penalty on a person who violates any statutory provision of the PRC, or any regulation that implements those statutory provisions. (PRC, § 3236.5.)

Based on CalGEM's records, HOC CA, LLC (**Operator**) is the "operator" (as defined in PRC, § 3009) and is responsible for the Production Facility identified on **Attachment A**, incorporated herein (the "**Facility**"). As described in more detail below, Operator has not maintained compliance with applicable requirements for operation of the Facility. Operator's failure to comply with the Regulations poses a potential threat to life, health, property, and natural resources and constitute violations requiring remedial work and for which the Supervisor has determined imposition of a civil penalty is appropriate. Therefore, pursuant to PRC sections 3106, 3224, 3225, 3226, 3236.5, and 3270 and Regulations sections 1773.1 and 1777, the Supervisor is ordering Operator to (1) perform remedial work to bring the Facility into compliance and (2) pay an administrative civil penalty for the violations.

**Attachment B**, incorporated herein, contains a list of definitions and authorities that are applicable to this Order.

## II. Alleged Acts and Omissions

Based on CalGEM's records, at all times relevant to this Order, Operator was the operator, as defined in PRC section 3009, of the Facility. On or about November 7, 2024, CalGEM conducted an inspection of the Facility where the violations described below were observed and documented on the Edison Field. (**Attachments C and D**, incorporated herein.) CalGEM had additional exchanges with Operator regarding the violations identified below. (**Attachment E**, incorporated herein.)

CalGEM records reflect Operator has not maintained compliance with applicable requirements for operation of the Facility. Operator's lack of adherence to the Regulations

poses a potential threat to life, health, property, and natural resources. The violations at issue are identified below.

**A. Failure to remove weeds and/or debris from secondary containment (Regulations § 1777, subd. (c)(2).)**

In the event of a spill, secondary containment protects the surrounding area from contamination. Required maintenance of production facilities includes removal of weeds and debris from secondary containment areas. (Regulations, § 1777, subd. (c)(2).) Weeds and debris can: (1) obstruct view of the secondary containment, which can make detection of compromised secondary containment difficult; (2) present a fire hazard; and (3) can compromise containment integrity and capacity.

During the inspection, CalGEM observed weeds and/or debris on or in the secondary containment, in violation of Regulations, section 1777, subdivision (c)(2), at the following production facility:

Facility Setting ID	Facility Setting Name	Facility (Component) ID	Facility (Component) Name	Facility (Component) Type
90299114	Charles	3238	Charles 7538	Produced Water

As of the date of this Order, CalGEM does not have any records from Operator demonstrating that the violation has been corrected.

**B. Failure to Have Adequate Secondary Containment (Regulations, § 1773.1, subds. (a) & (b).)**

In the event of a spill, secondary containment protects the surrounding area from contamination. Operators are required to have secondary containment for all production facilities storing and/or processing fluids, except valves, headers, manifolds, pumps, compressors, wellheads, pipelines, flowlines, and gathering lines. (Regulations, § 1773.1, subd. (a).) Secondary containment must be capable of containing the equivalent volume of liquids from the single piece of equipment with the largest gross capacity within the secondary containment. (Regulations, § 1773.1, subd. (b).)

During the inspection, CalGEM observed inadequate secondary containment, in violation of Regulations, section 1773.1, subdivisions (a) and (b), at the following production facility:

Facility Setting ID	Facility Setting Name	Facility (Component) ID	Facility (Component) Name	Facility (Component) Type
90299114	Charles	3238	Charles 7538	Produced Water

As of the date of this Order, CalGEM does not have any records from Operator demonstrating that the violation has been corrected.

### III. Civil Penalty/Remedial Work

#### A. Civil Penalty

Based on the foregoing Alleged Acts and Omissions and pursuant to PRC section 3236.5, by this Order the Supervisor imposes on Operator an administrative civil penalty totaling eight hundred dollars (\$800.00) for the two violations.

Violation Description	Number of Violations	Associated Civil Penalty per Violation	Civil Penalty Totals
Regulations § 1777, subd. (c)(2) (Weeds in Secondary Containment)	1	\$400.00	\$400.00
Regulations, § 1773.1, subds. (a) & (b.) (Inadequate Secondary Containment)	1	\$400.00	\$400.00
		<b>Total Civil Penalty:</b>	\$800.00

For purposes of this Order, the Supervisor considered relevant circumstances when establishing the amount of the administrative civil penalty, including: characterizing the violations as "minor" (as defined in PRC section 3236.5, subdivision (b)), and the eight factors identified in PRC section 3236.5, subdivision (a).

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## B. Remedial Work

Pursuant to PRC section 3224, the Supervisor hereby orders Operator to complete remedial work to come into compliance with Regulations sections 1773.1 and 1777, as outlined below in Operator's Required Actions.

### IV. Operator's Required Actions

For the reasons stated herein, pursuant to PRC sections 3013, 3106, 3224, 3225, and 3236.5, and Regulations sections 1773.1, and 1777, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Operator:

- 1) Pay an administrative civil penalty of eight hundred dollars (\$800.00); and
- 2) In accordance with PRC section 3224 and Regulations sections 1773.1 and 1777

Operator is required to:

- a. Remove weeds, vegetation and debris from the secondary containment at the following production facilities:

Facility Setting ID	Facility Setting Name	Facility (Component) ID	Facility (Component) Name	Facility (Component) Type
90299114	Charles	3238	Charles 7538	Produced Water

- b. Install secondary containment, at the following production facility, capable of containing liquid for a minimum of 72 hours and capable of containing the equivalent volume of liquid from equipment with largest gross capability within the secondary containment as required in Regulations, section 1773.1:

Facility Setting ID	Facility Setting Name	Facility (Component) ID	Facility (Component) Name	Facility (Component) Type
90299114	Charles	3238	Charles 7538	Produced Water

To remit payment of the civil penalty online, please visit <https://www.govone.com/PAYCAL/Home/SelectAgency> and select "California Department of Conservation Geologic Energy Management Division," then follow the instructions on the screen.

To remit payment of the civil penalty by mail, please send a check payable to "Department of Conservation" to the following address:

Department of Conservation  
CalGEM, Attn: Operational Management Unit  
715 P Street, MS 1803  
Sacramento, California 95814

Please include the Operator name, Order number, and phrase "Oil and Gas Environmental Remediation Account" on the check itself.

Upon performing the required remedial work, please contact David Coockey-Gam at CalGEM's Central District via email at David.Cookey-Gam@conservation.ca.gov.

#### **V. Operator's Appeal Rights**

Operator may appeal this Order by filing a timely written notice of appeal with the Director as described in Article 6 (Appeals and Review) of Division 3 of the PRC, commencing with PRC section 3350. (PRC, § 3225, subd. (d).) If this Order is mailed to you, the Director must receive the appeal within fifteen (15) days from the date the Supervisor mails the Order. To file an appeal, a written notice of appeal may be sent via U.S. mail to:

Department of Conservation  
Director's Office of Appeals  
715 P Street, MS 19-06 (Legal Office, Chief Counsel)  
Sacramento, California 95814

Or via electronic mail to:

[OfficeofAppeals@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:OfficeofAppeals@conservation.ca.gov)

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

If Operator does not file a timely written notice of appeal, or if the Order is affirmed following an appeal, this Order will become a final order and CalGEM 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 CalGEM 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. (PRC, § 3356.)

**VI. Other Potential Actions to Enforce This Order**

Failure to comply with Section IV (Operator's Required Actions) of this Order could subject Operator to further enforcement action. 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 conservation laws commencing at PRC section 3000. PRC sections 3236.2 and 3236.3 authorize the Supervisor to seek for civil penalties and injunctive relief for failure to comply with an order or for violations of any provision in Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the PRC or any regulation that implements those statutes. 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 further civil penalties based on the facts and omissions underlying this order. PRC section 3237 authorizes the Supervisor to order the plugging and abandonment of a well or the decommissioning of a production facility if an operator has failed to comply with an order of the Supervisor within the time provided by the order or has failed to challenge the order on a timely basis. 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.) By issuance of this Order, the Supervisor does not waive the right to take further enforcement actions.

DATED: 1/31/2025

Doug Ito  
Doug Ito  
State Oil and Gas Supervisor