

Department of Conservation, Geologic Energy Management Division
Doug Ito
STATE OIL AND GAS SUPERVISOR
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
GEOLOGIC ENERGY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

ORDER TO PAY A CIVIL PENALTY
NO. 1529

Operator: Kenneth and Conway Lopez (L2550)

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, Kenneth Lopez and Conway Lopez (**Operator**) is the "operator" (as defined in PRC, § 3009) and is responsible for the Well and associated Production Facilities identified on **Attachment A**, incorporated herein (the "**Well**"). As described in more detail below, Operator has not maintained compliance with applicable requirements for operation of the Well. Operator's failure to comply with the Regulations poses a potential threat to life, health, property, and natural resources and constitute violations for which the Supervisor has determined imposition of a civil penalty is appropriate. Therefore, pursuant to PRC sections 3013, 3106, 3225, 3236.5, and 3270 and Regulations section 1777, the Supervisor is ordering Operator to 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 Well and Facilities. On or about November 20, 2024, CalGEM conducted an inspection of the Wells and Facilities where the violations described below were observed and documented in the Edison Field. (**Attachment C**, incorporated herein.)

CalGEM records reflect Operator has not maintained compliance with applicable requirements for operation of the Well and the Facilities. 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 Keep Well Cellar Drained. (Regulations, § 1777, subd. (c)(3).)

The well cellar is an excavated area around the wellhead that provides space for equipment at the top of the wellbore. Operators are required to keep well cellars drained. (Regulations, § 1777, subd. (c)(3).)

During the inspection, CalGEM observed fluids in the well cellar, in violation of Regulations, section 1777, subdivision (c)(3), at the following Well:

API	Well Designation
0402962630	Edison 4

The violation was corrected by Operator on or around April 23, 2025.

B. Failure to maintain production facilities in good condition and in a manner to prevent leakage or corrosion. (Regulations, § 1777, subd. (a).)

Operators are required to maintain production facilities in good condition and in a manner to prevent leakage or corrosion and to safeguard life, health, property, and natural resources and conduct operations in accordance with good oilfield practices. (Regulations, § 1777, subd. (a).) Production facilities include wellheads. (PRC, § 3010; Regulations, § 1760, subd. (r).)

During the inspection, CalGEM observed a liquid leak at the following wellhead and the well, therefore not being maintained in a good condition and in a manner to prevent leakage or corrosion, in violation of the Regulations, section 1777, subdivision (a):

API	Well Designation
0402962630	Edison 4

The violation was corrected by Operator on or around April 23, 2025.

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 ten dollars (\$810.00) for the two violations.

Violation Description	Number of Violations	Associated Civil Penalty per Violation	Civil Penalty Totals
Failure to Keep Well Cellar Drained (Regulations, § 1777, subd. (c)(3).)	1	\$260.00	\$260.00
Failure to Maintain Production Facilities in Good Condition and in a Manner to Prevent Leakage or Corrosion; Leaking Wellheads (Regulations, § 1777, subd. (a).)	1	\$550.00	\$550.00
		Total Civil Penalty:	\$810.00

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)), the eight factors identified in PRC section 3236.5, subdivision (a), and the following: the size of the leak and timeliness by which operator corrected the violations.

III. Operator's Required Actions

For the reasons stated herein, pursuant to PRC sections 3013, 3106, 3225, and 3236.5, and Regulations section 1777, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that within 30 days, Operator pay an administrative civil penalty of eight hundred ten dollars (\$810.00).

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. When filling out the "order number" field, please type the order number followed by the letter "O."

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.

1 **IV. Operator's Appeal Rights**

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

7 Department of Conservation
8 Director's Office of Appeals
9 715 P Street, MS 19-06 (Legal Office, Chief Counsel)
Sacramento, California 95814

10 Or via electronic mail to:

11 OfficeofAppeals@conservation.ca.gov

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

16 If Operator does not file a timely written notice of appeal, or if the Order is affirmed
17 following an appeal, this Order will become a final order. Any costs incurred by CalGEM to
18 obtain compliance with this Order (which may include penalties and interest) will
19 constitute a lien against Operator's real or personal property per PRC section 3423. (PRC, §
20 3356.)

21 **V. Other Potential Actions to Enforce This Order**

22 Failure to comply with Section IV (Operator's Required Actions) of this Order could
23 subject Operator to further enforcement action. PRC section 3236 makes it a misdemeanor for
24 any person who violates, fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with any of the provisions of the
25 oil and gas conservation laws commencing at PRC section 3000. PRC sections 3236.2 and
26 3236.3 authorize the Supervisor to seek for civil penalties and injunctive relief for failure to
27 comply with an order or for violations of any provision in Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the PRC or
28 any regulation that implements those statutes. PRC section 3236.5 authorizes the Supervisor to

1 impose a civil penalty on a person who violates any provision in Chapter 1 of Division 3 of the
2 PRC or any regulation that implements those statutes, and the Supervisor may in the future
3 impose further civil penalties based on the facts and omissions underlying this order. PRC
4 section 3237 authorizes the Supervisor to order the plugging and abandonment of a well or
5 the decommissioning of a production facility if an operator has failed to comply with an order
6 of the Supervisor within the time provided by the order or has failed to challenge the order on
7 a timely basis. PRC section 3359 makes it a misdemeanor to fail or neglect to comply with an
8 order of the Supervisor. Each day's further failure, refusal, or neglect is a separate and distinct
9 offense. (PRC, § 3359.) By issuance of this Order, the Supervisor does not waive the right to take
10 further enforcement actions.

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13 DATED: 5/15/2025

Doug Ito
14 Doug Ito
15 State Oil and Gas Supervisor
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