I. <u>Introduction</u>

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, Crimson Resource Management Corp. (**Operator**) is the "operator" (as defined in PRC section 3009) of the injection wells (as defined in Regulations section 1720.1, subdivision (f)) identified on **Attachment A**, incorporated herein (**the Wells**). As described in more detail below, under applicable provisions of Regulations sections 1724.10 and 1724.10.1, Operator was required to complete Mechanical Integrity Testing (MIT) Part One on the Wells by April 1, 2024, to maintain uninterrupted approval for injection, and failed to do so. As a result, Operator automatically lost approval to continue injection operations. (Regulations, § 1724.10, subd. (i)(4).) Following April 1, 2024, Operator was therefore required to cease injection into the Wells, immediately notify CalGEM that it had not performed MIT Part One on the Wells, and disconnect the injection lines from the Wells, and failed to do so in violation of Regulations sections 1724.10, 1724.10.1, 1724.13, and 1777.

Therefore, pursuant to PRC sections 3013, 3106, 3224, and 3236.5, and Regulations sections 1724.10, 1724.10.1, 1724.13, and 1777 the Supervisor is ordering Operator to within thirty (30) days of this Order pay civil penalties, totaling thirty-two thousand four hundred dollars (\$32,400.00), imposed for violations of Regulations sections 1724.10, 1724.10.1, 1724.13, and 1777.

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

II. <u>Alleged Acts/Omissions</u>

To maintain uninterrupted injection approval for certain categories of injection wells, that as of April 1, 2019, were approved for injection by CalGEM, MIT Part One (casing pressure

test) was required to be successfully completed on each such injection well by April 1, 2024. (Regulations, §§ 1724.10, subd. (i)(4), 1724.10.1, subd. (e).) In performing the testing, Operators must notify CalGEM at least 48 hours in advance and provide the results within 60 days. (Regulations, § 1724.10, subd. (i)(1)-(2).) An operator must cease injection into an injection well and immediately notify CalGEM if, among other reasons, MIT Part One has not been timely performed or the results of such testing has not been provided. (Regulations, §§ 1724.6, subd. (e), 1724. 10, subd. (i)(4), 1724.10.1, subd. (a), 1724.13, subd. (a)(1).) Each day an operator injects into an injection well without approval is a separate violation. (Regulations, § 1724.13, subd. (c).)

On September 8, 2023, CalGEM sent a Notice to Operators (NTO 2023-09) as a reminder to Operator of the testing requirements set forth in Regulations section 1724.10.1, including an explanation that MIT Part One must be completed for subject wells by April 1, 2024, to maintain uninterrupted approval for injection activity. (Attachment C, incorporated herein.)

CalGEM's records indicate that the Wells were all approved for injection as of April 1, 2019, and that, as of April 1, 2024, Operator had not successfully performed MIT Part One on them. As a result, Operator automatically lost approval for injection into the Wells. Following this automatic loss of injection approval, Operator was therefore required to cease injection into the Wells, immediately notify CalGEM of its failure to perform the testing, and disconnect the injection lines from the Wells, and Operator failed to do so.

On April 5, 2024, CalGEM sent a courtesy notice alerting Operator that it had been identified as (1) having one or more injection wells with an active status and (2) having failed to notify CalGEM of ceasing injection operations or a record of a passing MIT Part One for its injection well(s). (Attachment D, incorporated herein.)

On April 15, 2024, CalGEM received a response letter dated April 10, 2024, from Operator providing notice of cessation of injection in lieu of providing test results for MIT Part One. Notwithstanding, based on Operator's self-reported injection activity, Operator continued injection into the Wells without approval as follows:

Number of Days API of Unauthorized **Well Designation** Date Range Injection September – November Section 34 AE-W7 Section 3 AE-C13 August – October 2024 Section 3 BE-E11 August – September 2024 June -July 2024 Section 2 DEW-Z9 **Total Days:**

On January 13, 2025, CalGEM provided a Notice of Violation to Operator regarding unauthorized injection into the Wells. On February 6, 2025, CalGEM staff observed that the Wells had been disconnected from their injection lines.

III. <u>Civil Penalties</u>

Based on the foregoing Alleged Acts and Omissions and pursuant to PRC section 3236.5, by this Order the Supervisor imposes on Operator administrative civil penalties totaling - thirty-two thousand four hundred dollars (\$32,400.00) as follows:

Type of Violation	Number of Violations	Total Civil Penalty per violation
Injection into well without injection approval (collectively, Regulations, §§ 1724.10, subd. (i)(4), 1724.10.1, subd. (e), 1724.13, subd. (a)(1), 1724.13, subd. (c))	158	\$200.00
Failure to disconnect injection lines from well without injection approval (Regulations, § 1777, subd. (c)(4))	4	\$200.00
	Total Civil Penalties:	\$32,400.00

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 extended and ongoing period of non-

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compliance as well as the mandated regulatory assessment of daily penalties for unauthorized injection pursuant to Regulations section 1724.13, subsection (c).

IV. Operator's Required Actions

For the reasons stated herein, pursuant to the PRC sections 3013, 3106, 3224, and 3236.5, and Regulations sections 1724.10, 1724.10.1, 1724.13, and 1777, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Operator **pay civil penalties** in the amount of thirty-two thousand four hundred dollars (\$32,400.00).

Operator is required to pay the civil penalties amount within thirty (30) days from the date this Order is issued. Daily violations and penalties will continue to accrue if these requirements are not addressed to CalGEM's satisfaction within thirty (30) days of this Order.

To remit payment of the civil penalties 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 penalties 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 18-03

Sacramento, California 95814

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

Please contact CalGEM's Central District with any questions concerning the violations and to verify correction thereof.

Injection into wells without current injection approval shall not resume without subsequent written approval from CalGEM. (Regulations, §§ 1724.6, subd. (e), 1724.10, subd. (i)(4), 1724.10.1, subd. (a), 1724.13, subd. (b).)

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 the 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

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.

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 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.)

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5		Lindsey Miller CalGEM Enforcement Chief, on
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