



**NOTICE TO OPERATOR
2024-03**

March 13, 2024

ENHANCED FIELD ENFORCEMENT

To maintain the highest standards of safety, environmental responsibility, and regulatory compliance within the oil and gas and geothermal industries, the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) is enhancing its efforts to enforce against noncompliance with the law, including issuing civil penalties in response to violations observed during inspections. Operators will continue to receive a Notice of Violation or inspection report with an expected timeframe to complete remedial activities. However, onsite correction of a violation or compliance with the Notice of Violation does not preclude the issuance of a civil penalty for an observed violation. Violations observed during inspections are being reviewed and assessed for civil penalties on a case-by-case basis.

In particular, CalGEM plans to increase its focus this year on commonly cited violations that increase the risk of harm to public health, safety, and the environment, including, but not limited to missing bolts, leaking stuffing boxes, leaking tanks, and inadequate secondary containment.

We strongly urge all regulated entities to self-inspect and correct any deficiencies. Your commitment to compliance is essential in mitigating the impact of violations, ensuring a fair playing field for the industry, and upholding the highest standards of safety and environmental stewardship.

For any inquiries or clarification regarding the content of this notice, please contact Lindsey Miller, Acting Enforcement Chief, at lindsey.miller@conservation.ca.gov.

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