As cities and municipal areas expand, urban encroachment on former oil and gas activities is becoming a point of convergence in our industry. Former oil and gas activities that were once located on traditionally agricultural land are now being re-evaluated as part of development opportunities. With the potential for development, new stakeholders are being introduced to the oil and gas reclamation/remediation game. When this change in land use or ownership involves contaminated sites assessment, what options are available to all stakeholders to move the site towards closure in times of fiscal constraint? The focus is not just on scientific studies to assess impact, it is to improve the quality of decisions made by these new stakeholders when evaluating environmental risk.

A brief overview of urban encroachment in Alberta will be presented along with a series of land development case studies which include: Reclamation Exempt facilities, defunct operators, transfer of liability, offsite contaminant migration and absentee operators. What are the new stakeholder’s expectations on timely closure for contaminated sites? How is the current downturn in the oil and gas economy affecting land development, financing opportunities and regulatory enforcement?

Jim Purves

Mr. Purves is a Professional Agrologist with over 20 years of experience in the environmental and agricultural industries. As a Technical Advisor, Mr. Purves provides technical support, senior report review as well as mentorship and staff training to his team members. His focus is on complex projects; mainly contaminated sites in the form of guideline modification, risk assessment and Subsoil Salinity Tool (SST). Mr. Purves’ remediation and reclamation experience includes all aspects of the ‘life cycle’ approach from Phase 1, 2, and 3 ESAs, spill clean-up and restoration, reclamation, DSAs, and the implementation of various remediation techniques.