

# Weekly NEWS



An Information Service for Alberta's Environment Industry

The Week Ending September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019



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**Comments & submissions are welcome!**

Please submit your announcement via e-mail to:  
[weeklynews@esaa.org](mailto:weeklynews@esaa.org)



**RemTech 2019**  
October 16-18, 2019  
Fairmont Banff Springs

**Starts in 4 Weeks – Register Now**

**75 Delegate Passes Remaining**

**RemTech 2019** starts in just 4 weeks. There are only 75 delegate passes remaining. The program features **80** technical presentations, and four amazing keynotes and two networking receptions.

**Topic Areas** include: Sulfolane Remediation, Digital Technology Innovations, Legal/Regulatory Updates, Phytoremediation, Brownfields, Northern and Unique Locations, Risk Based Closure - Fact or Fairy Tale, In-Situ, Land Stewardship and much more.

### RemTech 2019 Keynotes:

- Opening Keynote: **Saskatchewan's Uranium Mining Legacy** - Ian Wilson, Remediation Manager, Saskatchewan Research Council
- Thursday Keynote: **The Ripple Effect** - Annie Griffiths, Photographer, Founder and Executive Director of Ripple Effect Image
- Friday Breakfast Keynote (new addition): **One Giant Leap: The Impossible Mission that Flew Us to the Moon**, Charles Fishman, Author, Journalist
- Closing Keynote: **The World Beneath our Feet**, Robbie Shone, Photographer, Cave Explorer, Visual Story Teller

You can check out full program at: [www.esaa.org/remtech/agenda/](http://www.esaa.org/remtech/agenda/)



ESAA is pleased to announce that *RemTech 2019* is bullfrog powered with 100% green energy. This means that Bullfrog Power's generators put 100% green energy onto the grid to match the amount of conventional energy the event uses, displacing energy from polluting sources.

### RemTech Sponsors.

**Platinum:** Trace Associates

**Gold:** CHEMCO Inc \* ClearStream Energy Services \* Ecoventure \* Ernco Environmental \* Great Excavations \* JSK Consulting \* KBL Environmental \* Nelson Environmental Group \* North Shore Environmental Consultants \* Proactive Environmental Rentals \* Remote Helicopters \* Ridgeline Greenfill \* SECURE Energy Services \* TerraStryke \* Veolia \* Waste Management

**Silver:** Alberta Society of Professional Biologists \* Bionera \* Earthmaster Environmental Strategies \* ECO Canada \* EnviroSearch \* Geosyntec Consultants \* In-Situ, Inc. \* Iron Creek Group \* McLennan Ross LLP \* Milestone Environmental Contracting \* Mud Bay Drilling \* Precision Liability \* Rice Resource Technology \* Solstice Canada \* Summit, an Earth Services Company \* Terralogix Solutions \* Tervita Corporation \* Thurber Engineering

**Bronze:** Bureau Veritas \* ERIS \* Ivey International \* Pro-Source Insurance & Risk Management \* Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP

**Opening Reception:** Beaver Municipal Solutions

**Lanyards:** Ivey International

**Room Keys:** Sublatus Earthworks and Environmental

**Opening Keynote Breakfast:** TRIUM Environmental

**Charging Station:** JSK Consulting

**Conference App:** Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP

**Thursday Keynote Luncheon:** Matrix Solutions

**Friday Breakfast Sponsor:** AGAT Laboratories

**Friday Keynote Luncheon:** Waste Connections of Canada

**Silent Auction:** ClearStream Energy Services

**Reception Drink Tickets:** Proactive Environmental Rentals

**Artworks Reception:** Intrinsic \* JSK Consulting \* THINK Envirotechnical \* Trace Associates

**Photo Booth Wednesday:** Trace Associates

**Photo Booth Thursday:** SECURE Energy Services

Full details available online at: [www.esaa.org/remtech/](http://www.esaa.org/remtech/)



### ***2019 ESAA PHOTO CONTEST - WINNERS ANNOUNCED***

**1st Place – Rory Farrell – Husky Oil Operations Ltd.**



**2nd Place – Kelly Kneteman – Matrix Solutions Inc.**



**3rd Place – Tyler Lillico – Nichols Environmental**



***Thank you to everyone who entered the 2019 contest. Look for the 2020 contest information in early spring!***

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***ALBERTA ENERGY REGULATOR BOARD CHANGES AND REVIEW***

Alberta is fulfilling its promise to review its energy regulator to ensure the province's resources are being developed efficiently and in an environmentally responsible manner.

Government is seeking advice and input from stakeholders and the public on ways to improve the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), while maintaining stringent environmental standards and respecting the rights of landowners.

This process will identify changes and enhancements to the AER's mandate, governance and system operations to ensure that Alberta remains a predictable place to invest and a world leader in responsible resource development.

"We've seen the performance of the AER decline over the past few years – despite hiring more staff. It now takes four times longer than other jurisdictions like Texas to get a project approved in Alberta. We are engaging in a thoughtful and thorough evaluation of the regulator in order to maintain the high standards that have made Alberta a global oil and gas leader." - *Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy*

The review will include:

- In-person stakeholder workshops with industry, municipal and professional associations, government departments and Indigenous groups.
- Working with governance and regulatory experts.
- A dedicated website for interested parties to provide feedback.

"We promised Albertans that we would conduct a review of the AER within 180 days, and I'm proud to move forward on this platform commitment. We must preserve Alberta's reputation as an environmentally responsible resource producer – but we must also restore confidence with our investors and landowners as a leader in predictable and efficient regulation." - *Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks*

Albertans can provide feedback by visiting [alberta.ca/AER](http://alberta.ca/AER) between Sept. 6, 2019 and Oct. 14, 2019. Government will release a report once the review is complete.

The province is also replacing the current board with an interim board of directors made up of public servants and individuals with oil and gas expertise. Board members will carry out the general management of the business and affairs and will serve for approximately nine months. This is in keeping with a promise made during the recent provincial election.

### **Interim board members and biographies**

Order in Council 156/2019 appoints the following individuals as members of the board of directors of the Alberta Energy Regulator, each for a term of nine months:

#### **BEVERLY YEE, CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Current Deputy Minister of Environment and Parks, Yee has been with the Government of Alberta since 1994. She was appointed Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Relations in March 2018 and Deputy Minister of Environment and Parks in September 2018. Previously, she was Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and held five assistant deputy roles.

#### **GRANT SPRAGUE, QC**

Current Deputy Minister of Energy, Sprague served as associate counsel at Miller Thomson LLP where he provided advice on natural resource and environmental law, administrative law matters, and regulatory processes involving government. Previously, he served as Deputy Minister of Energy from July 2013 to May 2016 and chair of the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission.

#### **DAVID GOLDIE**

Goldie has more than 30 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, including over seven years with Cenovus Energy in Alberta. He has broad experience in business development, downstream/refining, upstream operations and development, and exploration and risk assessment.

#### **GEORGETTE HABIB**

Habib is a former board member of the National Energy Board, Canada's national energy regulator, and has over 30 years of experience in the regulation of oil and gas transmission, distribution, gas processing, energy exports and upstream energy infrastructure on both the provincial and federal level.

#### **SHERRI BRILLON**

Brillon worked for Encana for over 30 years, including key leadership roles in the company's most significant milestones, such as the structuring of the \$22.5-billion merger that created Encana in 2002, and restructuring Encana into a pure play natural gas company in 2009.

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AND DATA TABULATION FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS OF ALL SIZES**

Local company with 25 years experience in Alberta's oil and gas industry.

We are environmental experts who will present your drawings and data professionally and cost-effectively. No job is too big or too small.

We have completed thousands of environmental projects for many happy clients.

Environmental work is ALL we do and we know exactly what regulators want to see.

All work is hourly - only use us when you need us. Accuracy guaranteed.

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***ALBERTA ENDING SEPARATE OFFICES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING***

(Source: CBC News) Alberta's United Conservative government plans to eliminate its stand-alone offices for climate change policy and environmental monitoring, a move some say will damage the province's standing and its ability to make science-based plans.

"What's going to suffer is Alberta's international reputation (and) our overall approach to science and evidence-based decision making," said New Democrat legislature member Shannon Phillips, who was environment minister in the previous government.

The intention is outlined in a Sept. 10 email from Alberta Environment and Parks deputy minister Bev Yee, obtained by The Canadian Press.

Yee outlines a departmental re-organization under which the climate change office created during Phillips' tenure will disappear.

So will the environmental monitoring and science division, initially created as an arm's-length agency in 2014 by the provincial Conservative government and brought back into government by the New Democrats.

Both will be "integrated into the new structure," says Yee's email.

"The primary drivers and intended outcomes of this reorganization include enhanced business integration, the achievement of efficiencies, and providing better support to achieve government priorities," wrote Yee.

The changes are to be effective Oct. 15.

Yee said in an emailed statement Friday that the process is about increasing effectiveness.

"This reorganization will bring many of the department's brightest scientific minds under one division and eliminate some of the administrative overlap that can prevent them from doing their best work."

In an email, department spokeswoman Jess Sinclair said the climate change office has been incorporated into Alberta Environment's general policy effort "in order to ensure that (department) policy is developed with an eye to the overall management of pollution in the province."

But Phillips said the moves downgrade both climate and monitoring policy.

"We no longer have a government that is interested in putting forward credible climate change policy or credible monitoring and science in the oilsands," she said.

"I have serious questions about the resourcing of environmental monitoring in the oilsands."

Phillips suggested the change is a prelude to cuts.

"It's easier to hide the cuts if they're absorbed within the department."

Environmental groups called the changes part of a pattern in Jason Kenney's United Conservative government to roll back climate and environmental policies.

"If this government didn't have a very clear agenda to stall climate action and harass environmental organizations, then I might be willing to consider this normal operations for a new government," said Catherine Abreu of Climate Action Network Canada.

"[But] I can't help but see the elimination of their climate department as part of their overall strategy."

Since taking office in April, the Kenney government has eliminated Alberta's carbon tax, cancelled programs encouraging renewable energy, launched a \$30-million "war room" to fight what it calls misinformation and started a \$2.5-million inquiry into an alleged conspiracy to landlock Alberta oil.

"We continue to try to work with the government of Alberta," said Duncan Kenyon of the Pembina Institute, an Alberta-based clean energy think-tank. "But since taking office, every decision they have made on climate change will result in increased pollution."

"This is what climate denial looks like when it's in power," said Keith Stewart of Greenpeace in an email. "Disappearing the division won't make the climate crisis go away."

Sinclair said the moves are not an attempt to do less on environmental issues.

"Emissions management is a priority for this government," she said.

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### ***500,000 LITRES OF PRODUCED SALT WATER LEAKS FROM PIPELINE IN NORTHERN ALBERTA***

(Source: Global News) A Calgary-based energy company says a pipeline has been shut down after it was found to have leaked an estimated 500,000 litres of produced salt water and a small amount of natural gas.

[Produced water](#) is a by-product of oil and gas production, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) explained.

In a news release issued on behalf of NuVista Energy Ltd. on Thursday, Peak Communicators said the pipeline had been "shut down and isolated" and that "there have been no injuries."

"This produced water primarily came to surface at the facility and a portion of it mixed with rainwater and migrated offsite along a ditch and low-lying area north of the facility," the news release said. "Preliminary results suggest the spill has covered portions of an area approximately 400 metres by 600 metres.

"Personnel and equipment are now working to skim off any contaminated fluid for safe offsite disposal."

According to NuVista Energy, staff identified a possible leak on Monday through the company's pipeline leak monitoring and detection system.

The AER said it was notified by the company around 10 a.m. and said in addition to produced water, trace amount of natural gas were also released.

It was believed to be about 70 kilometres south of Grande Prairie, on a pipeline that runs from a NuVista gas facility in the Bilbo field to a nearby disposal well.

"The pipeline was immediately shut down and NuVista activated our emergency response plan," Thursday's news release said. "The leak is located where the pipeline runs underground near the centre of the facility.

"The Alberta Energy Regulator and local stakeholders were notified."

Global News has reached out to NuVista Energy for more details.

"Our top priority is to ensure the safety of people, protection of the environment, and fish and wildlife," Jonathan Wright, president and CEO of NuVista Energy, said in a statement. "We will ensure a full and proper cleanup and will investigate to ensure learnings and to avoid any recurrence."

The company said environmental consultants have been brought in to provide technical support for the response to the spill and for remediation efforts.

The AER said low-lying wet areas are within the affected area but no impacts to wildlife have been reported.

On its website, NuVista Energy describes itself as an "oil and natural gas company actively engaged in the exploration for, and the development and production of, oil and natural gas reserves in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin."

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### ***MEDICINE HAT SHUTTERING MORE THAN 2,000 PRODUCING GAS WELLS***

(Source: June Warren Energy) Alberta's self-anointed "Gas City" is turning off the taps of more than 2,000 producing wells due to weak market conditions.

After an extensive four-year process to find efficiencies and new opportunities in a depressed oil and gas market, the City of Medicine Hat has decided to accelerate abandonment and reclamation of uneconomic gas fields.

"We'll always be the Gas City. It's an integral piece of our history, and the city's oil and gas accomplishments will leave a lasting legacy for generations," said Brad Maynes, commissioner of energy and utilities.

"Over the past 40 years, the city's oil and gas assets provided over \$600 million to the city coffers. We can't overlook that success."

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The decision to roll back activity was not taken lightly by city officials.

"We have worked hard for years to make the division profitable again, but this is a market phenomenon happening across North America — this is the new normal," Maynes said.

In 2015, the city commenced a growth strategy to improve profitability of the Natural Gas and Petroleum Resources (NGPR) division. The strategy involved the exploration for new oil assets, the disposition of non-core assets, and the evaluation of alternate revenue streams — primarily helium and lithium.

Some early success was experienced with the growth strategy, but oil and gas discoveries were not found in the quantities required, low gas prices impacted the sale of natural gas assets, and the financial risk associated with the production of helium was too significant for a municipality to take on.

“Our exploration program found some oil and some gas and even helium — just not enough of it,” Maynes said. “And a sustained pricing recovery in natural gas is not expected in the foreseeable future.”

As a result NGPR will commence an accelerated abandonment and reclamation of its uneconomic gas fields over the next three years beginning this fall. By the end of 2022 it is expected that over 2,000 currently producing wells will be abandoned.

“We have shown financial prudence in our efforts to regain profitability, and fortunately the City had the foresight to set aside funds for our abandonment and reclamation obligations. We will continue to look at ways of bringing down our reclamation costs while still being responsible stewards of the environment,” Maynes said.

As activity decreases, there will be a staffing impact in NGPR. The city is working to redeploy affected staff where possible. Over the next few years, remaining NGPR staff will focus on reclamation efforts and continuing oil field production as well as the still-profitable Northeast gas field. A small commercial team will continue to explore options for additional financial improvement.

“I want to thank all of our dedicated NGPR employees and consultants who have worked so hard over the last four years to find efficiencies in our business and comb the area for new discoveries. I also want to thank current and past city council for their support in our drive to return profitability to our city’s gas division,” Maynes said.

Residential and business gas supply will not be affected by these decisions, and steps are being taken to ensure a continued flow of supply for decades to come, the city said.

The matter will be discussed further at the next city council meeting on Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

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### ***TEPCO WILL HAVE TO DUMP RADIOACTIVE FUKUSHIMA WATER INTO PACIFIC, MINISTER SAYS***

(Source: Japan Today) Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) will have to dump radioactive water from its destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean as it runs out of room to store it, the environment minister said on Tuesday.

TEPCO has collected more than 1 million tons of contaminated water from the cooling pipes used to keep fuel cores from melting since the plant was crippled by an earthquake and tsunami in 2011.

"The only option will be to drain it into the sea and dilute it," the minister, Yoshiaki Harada, told a news briefing in Tokyo. "The whole of the government will discuss this, but I would like to offer my simple opinion."

The government is awaiting a report from an expert panel before making a final decision on how to dispose of the radioactive water.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, in a separate press briefing, described Harada's comments as "his personal opinion".

TEPCO was not in a position to decide what to do but would follow the policy once the government made a decision, a spokesman for the utility said.

The utility says it will run out of room to store the water by 2022. Harada did not say how much water would need to be dumped into the ocean.

Any green light from the government to dump the waste into the sea would anger neighbors such as South Korea, which summoned a senior Japanese embassy official last month to explain how the Fukushima water would be dealt with.

"We're just hoping to hear more details of the discussions that are under way in Tokyo so that there won't be a surprise announcement," a South Korean diplomat told Reuters, requesting anonymity due to the sensitivity of bilateral ties.

South Korea's foreign ministry said in a statement said it had asked Japan "to take a wise and prudent decision on the issue".

Relations between the East Asian nations are already frosty following a dispute over compensation for Koreans forced to work in Japanese factories in World War Two.

Coastal nuclear plants commonly dump into the ocean water that contains tritium, an isotope of hydrogen that is hard to separate and is considered to be relatively harmless.

TEPCO, which also faces opposition from fishermen, admitted last year that the water in its tanks still contained contaminants beside tritium.

"The government must commit to the only environmentally acceptable option for managing this water crisis which is long term storage and processing to remove radioactivity, including tritium," Shaun Burnie, senior nuclear specialist with Greenpeace Germany, said in an email.

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## Upcoming Events

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### **ESAA CALGARY MIXER - SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2019**

***Are you in the Calgary area? Do you have staff or clients in the area? Share the following event information with them!***

ESAA invites you to attend an industry mixer at the Barcelona Tavern located in Calgary (501 8 Avenue SW). The mixer is an opportunity to network with other industry professionals, ESAA Staff, and Board of Directors.

Everyone is welcome to join and you do not have to be an ESAA member to attend. If you have staff or offices in the Calgary area, please share this with your colleagues.



There is no cost to attend and ESAA will provide a selection of appetizers and the first beverage from Barcelona Tavern's selection.

Hope to see you there! [RSVP NOW](#)

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### **CLEANTECH/WATER AND WASTEWATER BUYERS VISIT TO ALBERTA FROM LATIN AMERICA** Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta September 26-27, 2019

Global Affairs Canada, Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, and Alberta Innovates are hosting a delegation of buyers from Latin America seeking cleantech and industrial and municipal water and wastewater treatment technologies. The delegation will visit Calgary on September 26<sup>th</sup>, and Edmonton on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The program will include a **Cleantech Opportunities Seminar, with a focus on Water and Wastewater**, and opportunities to meet with delegation members and Canadian Cleantech trade representatives covering Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica / Nicaragua / Honduras, Guatemala/Belize, Panama, as well as the Calgary Regional Global Affairs Canada Office and Alberta Economic Development, Trade and Tourism (trade representatives TBC).

Alberta companies are invited to register their interest to meet the incoming delegates in Calgary or in Edmonton, and to meet with trade representatives (Export Café).

Calgary – Thursday, September 26 from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm  
McDougall Centre, 455 6 St SW, Calgary, AB  
<https://bit.ly/2ITiV4I>

Edmonton – Friday, September 27 from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm  
Alberta Innovates, 250 Karl Clark Rd NW, Edmonton, AB  
<https://bit.ly/2md5NXJ>

**The deadline to register is Friday, September 20, 2019.**

**Addendum** In Edmonton only: there will be an additional **Greenbuilding Products & Renewable Technology in Central America info Session:**

The trade commissioners from Guatemala and Costa Rica will be holding an information session in Edmonton on September 27, 2019 to share information on their markets and opportunities for Alberta companies who have strengths in Greenbuilding, Renewables and overall clean/sustainable technologies. Come and meet the trade commissioners while learning about how your company can leverage supports in the region.

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/green-building-renewable-opportunities-in-central-america-tickets-71541730241>

Contact Lindsay Matheson @ [lindsay.matheson@gov.ab.ca](mailto:lindsay.matheson@gov.ab.ca) for more info on the additional **Greenbuilding Products & Renewable Technology in Central America info Session.**

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### ***ECO IMPACT 2020 LEARNING SERIES AND AWARDS GALA IN CALGARY***

ECO Canada invites you to ECO Impact 2020: Learning Series and 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Awards Gala!

Join in on a day of learning, networking with peers, talks by influential speakers and celebrating the success of environmental professionals.

January 23, 2020  
Carriage House Inn, Calgary  
Learning Series: 8AM – 4 PM  
Awards Gala: 5 PM – 9 PM

To Register Visit: <https://ecoimpact.ca/>



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### ***Industry Positions Openings***

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**For more information visit ESAA's Job Board under the news section of [www.esaa.org](http://www.esaa.org)**

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#### ***Junior Environmental Consultant***

**Term:** Full-Time  
**Number of Positions:** 1  
**Application Deadline:** October 18, 2019  
**Job Start Date:** ASAP  
**Job Location:** Sherwood Park



**NORTH SHORE**  
Environmental Consultants

North Shore Environmental Consultants Inc. is a progressive environmental company that specializes in providing environmental management and consulting services. Since our inception in 2002, North Shore has offered cost-efficient and effective solutions to the complex environmental challenges faced by today's industries. We offer our employees exceptional career development opportunities and an excellent team-oriented working environment.

North Shore is currently seeking a **Junior Environmental Consultant** for our **Reclamation and Remediation Team**, based out of **Sherwood Park, Alberta**.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist with the coordination and execution of Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 Environmental Site Assessments through to reclamation certification
- Assist with the development and execution of reclamation, and remediation projects in central and northern Alberta as well as northeastern British Columbia
- Complete vegetation assessments and weed management activities in forested, tame pasture, and cropland settings
- Assist with the coordination and execution of Detailed Site Assessments
- Assist during initial spill response projects as required
- Prepare technical reports
- Provide assistance to senior staff in the office, as required
- Promote our company's vision, mission, and principles

Qualifications:

- 1 – 3 years of consulting experience related to remediation, reclamation, or environmental science
- Good understanding of upstream oil and gas regulatory requirements, particularly reclamation criteria
- Experience with vegetation and weed identification
- Willingness to travel and be in the field for extended periods of time
- Technical Diploma or University Degree in environmental science or related discipline
- Eligibility, to obtain professional designation with an organization such as the Alberta Institute of Agrologists
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite and database entry
- Valid driver's licence
- Good physical health and ability to work outdoors in varying conditions
- Willingness to work within a team environment
- Highly organized and have the ability to prioritize multiple tasks

North Shore Environmental Consultants Inc. supports a shared commitment to a Representative Workforce that is respectful and reflective of all staff and clients. North Shore strives to build diversity among our staff to increase our ability to provide high-quality service to our diverse client base.

**How to Apply:**

Please submit your resume via email to [careers@northshoreenv.com](mailto:careers@northshoreenv.com). We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those considered for an interview will be contacted. For more information about North Shore, please visit our website at [www.northshoreenv.com](http://www.northshoreenv.com).

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This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

