

# Weekly NEWS



An Information Service for Alberta's Environment Industry

The Week Ending February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020



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**The ESAA Weekly News is published weekly by:**

**Environmental Services Association of Alberta**  
102, 2528 Ellwood Drive SW  
Edmonton, AB T6X 0A9  
(P) 780.429.6363  
(F) 780.429.4249  
[info@esaa.org](mailto:info@esaa.org)  
[www.esaa.org](http://www.esaa.org)

**Comments & submissions are welcome!**

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

## NOTICE OF ESAA AGM AND FINAL LIST OF BOARD NOMINEES



As a reminder, the AGM of ESAA Members will be held in Edmonton, AB on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at the hour of 2:30 pm. The AGM will be held at Town Square Brewing - 2919 Ellwood Drive SW

**2020 AGM Documents:** The 2020 AGM documents can be downloaded via: [www.esaa.org/2020agm/](http://www.esaa.org/2020agm/). Documents include:

- Notice of AGM
- AGM Agenda
- Proxy Form and Instructions (Full members only)
- 2019 AGM Minutes
- List of Board of Directors - Final Nominees (also included below)

**Registration is free and open to both member and non-members** for the AGM and will include refreshments and hot hors d'oeuvres. Please RSVP via the following registration link: <https://www.esaa.org/events/#id=190&wid=401&cid=153>

**Note:** It is important that you RSVP so that we can make sure there is adequate food, beverage and seating.

## ESAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION - FINAL LIST OF NOMINEES

The ESAA Board of Directors is pleased to announce the final slate of candidates for the upcoming Board of Directors election to be held at the **ESAA AGM** on **March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020** in Edmonton, Alberta.

As there were only three individuals nominated for the Board, the following individuals will become members of the ESAA Board on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- **Sheila Duchek, SNC-Lavalin**
- **Sean Parker, McLennan Ross LLP**
- **Stacy Thygesen, JSK Consulting**

## EnviroTech 2020

April 27-29, 2020  
Hyatt Regency Calgary

**Draft Program Now Available**

ESAA is pleased to announce that the draft program for *EnviroTech 2020* is now available. The program will feature:

- 42 presentations covering a variety of subject areas including: Air, Emerging Contaminants, Forest Management, GHG Measurement and Monitoring, Project and Data Management, Regulatory, Remediation, Sediment, Subsoil Salinity Tool, Tools and Technology, Waste Management Water

- Opening Keynote and Discussion with **Andrew Coyne, National Post and CBC**
- Tuesday Lunch Keynote: **"Modernity and the Role of Travel in a Climate-Concerned World"**, Mark L. Hine, **Author of Ground Truth: A Guide to Tracking Climate Change at Home**
- Wednesday Breakfast Talks: **"An Introduction to the Yamnuska Wolf Dog Sanctuary"** and **"More Wild Shameless Shorts"** from **Brian Keating**
- Wednesday Closing Lunch Keynote: **"Canadian Resources"**, Rex Murphy, **National Post and CBC**
- Two networking receptions
- Workshop and Field Trip details to be announced in the weeks ahead.

The full program can be found online at: [www.esaa.org/envirotech/agenda/](http://www.esaa.org/envirotech/agenda/)

**Registration options:**

- Full conference passes for members and non-members
- Day Passes for Tuesday or Wednesday
- Discounted full conference passes for members when purchasing multiple passes

For full details visit: [Register Now](#)

**Exhibit Opportunities: Eight (8)** exhibit spaces are still available for **EnviroTech 2020**. **EnviroTech 2020** features an all new floor plan and additional exhibit space. For the new floor plan and a list of current exhibitors, visit:

<https://www.esaa.org/envirotech/exhibitors/>

**Exhibit space includes:**

- One or two complimentary booth worker passes (depending on booth package chosen) which provide access to the trade show, all meals, receptions, and coffee/networking breaks.
- 10' wide x 8' deep booth space
- 3' high side wall and 8' high back wall drape
- 6' table
- 2 padded chairs
- One 110v power outlet

If you are interested in receiving the exhibitor brochure, please contact: [lorrine@t2.ca](mailto:lorrine@t2.ca)

**Sponsorship Opportunities:** A very limited number of sponsorship opportunities are still available. For additional details, please contact: [lorrine@t2.ca](mailto:lorrine@t2.ca)

**We look forward to your continued support of ESAA events and look forward to welcoming you to [EnviroTech 2020](#).**

**RemTech 2020**  
**October 14-16, 2020, Fairmont Banff Springs**

**Call for Abstracts**

ESAA invites you to submit technical abstracts focusing on technologies for the remediation of contaminated soil. Abstracts are encouraged in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- In-Situ and Ex-Situ Treatment
- Physical / Biological / Chemical Treatment
- Soil Washing and Scrubbing
- Thermal Desorption
- Incineration
- Stabilization / Solidification
- Immobilization
- Aeration
- Soil Venting



- Membranes
- Encapsulation
- Vitrification
- Natural Attenuation
- Oil Sands Remediation / Reclamation
- Oil Spills Management
- New Technology and Research
- Remote and Difficult Locations
- Reclamation
- Emerging Contaminants
- Superfund Projects
- Landfill Closure
- Phyto-remediation
- All other related topics will be considered

The preliminary selection of presentations will be based on submitted abstracts and reviewed by a panel of peers.

**Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words (not including bio), should include a presenter biography and be submitted as a [Word Document](#) by no later than June 4th, 2020.**

Before submitting your abstract, ensure that client approval has been obtained for your potential presentation. Send abstract submissions to Joe Chowaniec via email to: [info@esaa.org](mailto:info@esaa.org)

Notification of acceptance will be given by July 14, 2020. Full presentations must be submitted by September 30, 2020.

Full details available: [www.esaa.org/remtech/agenda/call-for-abstracts/](http://www.esaa.org/remtech/agenda/call-for-abstracts/)

**Early Bird Registration** is now open with special delegate rates available for Members and Non-Members. **Register Now and save 15%.** Early bird rate ends July 17th, 2020.

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

## DRAFTING / GIS & DATA PROCESSING SERVICES

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS OF ALL SIZES

- ESA Report Figures
- Conceptual Site Models
- Geological Cross-Sections
- Groundwater Flow Maps
- Contours from LIDAR, DEM
- Borehole & Monitoring Well Log Plotting
- Data Tabulation (Exceedance Tables)
- Trimble File Processing



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## **2020 ECO CANADA COMPENSATION & HR TRENDS SURVEY**

Leger Research is conducting an exciting survey on Compensation & HR Trends for the environmental workforce on behalf of the **Environmental Careers Organization of Canada (ECO Canada)**. This research is funded in part by Natural Resources Canada and the Government of Canada's Sectoral Initiatives Program. The data collected will help ECO Canada provide a deeper understanding of compensation received by environmental workers, increase their portfolio of available research products, and better attend to the needs of their clients in this young industry.



As a member of a select group of individuals whose knowledge and experience is highly valued by ECO Canada, we would like to invite you to take this survey as your input is critical to creating an accurate representation of various compensation levels in the environmental sector. All data collected is confidential and will only be analyzed at an aggregate level.

Here are some benefits of taking the survey;

- The opportunity to contribute to a young and growing industry by providing your feedback.
- The opportunity to **enter a contest to win a free copy of the Compensation Survey Report or one of five prizes of \$200 as a gift card or donation to your favourite charity!**

This survey applies to all industries and takes **approximately 15mins to complete**.

If you would like to participate in the survey, **please click on the link below before March 13, 2020!**

<https://www.legerweb.com/ECOCanadaSurvey2020>

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## **ALBERTA ENERGY REGULATOR CONFIRMS 200 MORE EMPLOYEES LAID OFF**

### ***The corporation's funding was cut by 22% in the fall budget***

(Source: CBC News) The Alberta Energy Regulator has laid off 200 more employees.

An AER spokesperson confirmed last week's layoffs in an emailed statement on Wednesday.

Interim CEO Gordon Lambert had announced in January that the agency has been working to finalize a new organizational structure. Dozens of staff were laid off at that time.

"The new structure is simpler, one with less hierarchy, less duplication and more integration," he said in an emailed release on Jan. 21.

"This is a difficult time for staff, and resources are available for both those who depart and those who stay."

The AER — which is funded by a levy charged to Alberta's energy industry — oversees that sector and is expected to ensure safe and environmentally responsible development.

It's been under scrutiny since Alberta's auditor general, public interest commissioner and ethics commissioner launched probes into the watchdog, [detailing gross mismanagement and a culture of fear](#) in their reviews.

The province removed the agency's board, cut its funding by about 22 per cent and launched its own review in the fall. An October 2019 update from the agency stated that, at the time, the AER had less than 1,160 full-time employees.

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## **SUNCOR MEADOW CREEK WEST PROJECT RECEIVES APPROVAL**

Government has approved Suncor Energy's Meadow Creek West project, enabling it to move forward in the the best interest of Albertans.

The government's approval allows Suncor to proceed to the next stage of development, including making a final investment decision and applying for other environmental licences and local area development permits.

“Enabling projects like Meadow Creek West demonstrates our commitment to encouraging investment and creating good-paying jobs in our province.” - Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy

Before being submitted for government approval, these development plans – also known as schemes – require stringent approval by the Alberta Energy Regulator.

#### **Quick facts**

- Suncor Meadow Creek West will create an estimated 3,200 jobs during construction and 200 jobs once it is operational.
- Once operational, the project will produce about 40,000 barrels of bitumen per day.
- The project will extract bitumen using steam-assisted gravity drainage.
- The project is located in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, approximately 40 kilometres south of Fort McMurray.

#### **Related information**

- [Suncor Meadow Creek West project](#)

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### ***CAN SOLAR SOLVE ABANDONED WELL ISSUES?***

(Source: Medicine Hat News) A southern Alberta group that says mid-sized solar arrays on abandoned well-sites could provide an easier out for struggling gas companies, allay rural landowner concerns, and preserve lease payments is close to finalizing a pilot project.

RenuWell has worked for several years developing a model to assume reclaimed well sites for power production.

It held a final stakeholder feedback session Wednesday in Taber with the group’s head announcing that a potential pilot project and new partnerships could be coming before spring.

“We want to reuse some of that infrastructure to deploy solar energy instead of these large-scale utility fields,” said Keith Hirsche, a former petroleum engineer who has spent four years discussing the idea with landowners, regulators, and energy companies.

Oil companies are responsible for abandon wells and well sites but the large number of mature wells is an increasing source of concern across the province. Spending money to shut down sites in a poor economy is a hurdle for petroleum producers. Landowners as well may want proper environmental work done, but also depend on income from access and lease agreements.

When it’s done, what’s left is essentially a flat two-acre pad that Hirsche said is ready made for a solar array large enough to produce revenue to cover the lease agreement, local taxes and produce a return.

“We’d shorten the reclamation cycle, monitoring vegetation once the well is reclaimed instead of the oil company, and we’d use the roads and electrical infrastructure,” said Hirsche, adding that depending on the deal cut with landowners, power could go to pivots, or feed on to the local power grid.

“This could be very popular in irrigation country,” he said.

A grant decision from the provincial government’s Alberta Municipal Community Generation Challenge is due this spring that could fund a pilot project.

RenuWell is in advanced conversations with the Municipal District of Taber, an unnamed large utility company, job-training providers and rural landowner advocates.

Darryl Bennett is the head of the Action Surface Rights, a group that advocates for ag producers’ rights in disputes over well cleanup.

His group has passed motions to support the project, and this week’s RenuWell meetings were held in conjunction with the Action Surface Rights AGM in Taber.

“From the landowner’s perspective, we can’t really see any negatives,” said Bennett, who said his members are concerned about proper well cleanup, but also the potential loss of income from access agreements that end when wells are closed.

“There are so many of these wells, that even if we did five or 10 per cent that would be enough and we can cherry pick the best sites,” said Bennett.

There are about 90,000 inactive wells currently in the province. Cypress County alone has 20,000 shallow natural gas wells that are increasingly considered not economic to operate in a long-term low-price environment.

If a landowner and well operator agree, RenuWell would take over the sites once the reclamation process is far advanced, installing arrays to earn an income.

They would assume lease payments from that point on, thereby reducing the well-owner’s costs of continuing payments for up to five years while ground monitoring takes place.

As well, the new facility is taxable, and could help avoid a major tax-base shift for rural municipalities that depend heavily on taxing oil and gas infrastructure.

The size of the array is much smaller than the hundreds of acres needed for a utility-scale project that feeds provincial transmission systems. That size is now allowed after the province relaxed small-scale power production regulations two years ago.

Discussions are also underway with the Alberta Orphan Well Association, which handles wells of bankrupt oilpatch companies.

Initially, the group would prefer sites with low agricultural value, such as dry corners of crop land, hayland or pasture. Not only are lease rates lower, but less intrusive.

Many landowners might consider panels appropriate on a barn, shop or irrigation pivot, but less so on a tract of productive land, said Hirsche.

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### ***FISHERIES ACT OFFENCE RESULTS IN \$1.25 MILLION FINE FOR ALBERTA-BASED FUEL RETAILER***

**February 19, 2020 – Wetaskiwin, Alberta** The Government of Canada is committed to protecting the health, safety, and environment of Canadians. Environment and Climate Change Canada enforces laws that protect Canada’s air, water, and natural environment, and we take this responsibility very seriously.

On February 18, 2020, Drever Agencies Inc. was fined \$1,250,000 in Wetaskiwin Provincial Court for an offence under the *Fisheries Act*. The company pleaded guilty to a charge of depositing a deleterious substance into water frequented by fish. The fine will be directed to the Government of Canada’s Environmental Damages Fund.

In August 2017, Environment and Climate Change Canada enforcement officers responded to a report of a solvent spill on a commercial property in Wetaskiwin. A number of dead fish were observed in an unnamed creek that flows into the Battle River. An investigation determined that approximately 1800 litres of Petrosol solvent leaked from a storage tank owned by Drever Agencies Inc. and entered the creek. Through laboratory analysis, it was confirmed that the solvent was deleterious (harmful to fish).

As a result of the conviction, the company’s name will be added to the Environmental Offenders Registry.

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### ***TRANSPORT CANADA TESTING OF E-DOCUMENTS FOR DANGEROUS GOODS SHIPMENTS***

(Source: HazMat Magazine) Transport Canada is launching a regulatory sandbox on electronic shipping documents. This project will allow Transport Canada to test the use of electronic shipping documents for dangerous goods shipments in a safe way. As the transportation sector evolves, Transport Canada is looking at ways regulations can be updated to help keep Canada competitive and encourage innovation, while keeping Canadians safe.

Transport Canada will use the sandbox to evaluate whether electronic shipping documents can help the department reach the same or a better level of safety as paper documents, and if so, under what conditions.

The project will look at using electronic shipping documents across four modes of transportation: air, marine, rail, and road. Transport Canada will also look at both rural and urban environments, including areas with limited or no internet or cell coverage.

No specific technology or system will be imposed by this project, because Transport Canada is interested in evaluating a variety of platforms and technologies.

This project does not change existing regulations. It is just a way for Transport Canada to analyze the benefits, costs, and performance of electronic shipping documents, as well as how they could impacts Canadians. All of these items need to be examined before any regulatory changes are proposed.

Once the project is complete, Transport Canada will publish a final report that will include recommendations.

Organizations that are interested in participating in this project, have questions or comments, can contact the Sandbox Project Team via e-mail at [TDGEShipping-ExpeditionETMD@tc.gc.ca](mailto:TDGEShipping-ExpeditionETMD@tc.gc.ca). More information on the project can be found [here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

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### SMART Remediation 2020 in Alberta

#### Smart Methods in Advanced Remediation Technologies (SMART)

is a series of technical learning seminars for environmental professionals. We bring the North American environmental community together to enhance our collective understanding of cutting edge characterization and remediation technologies. Our seminars are full of technical information on how-to's, latest tips 'n tricks and up-to-date techniques.

We have a great line up of speakers once again for SMART Edmonton and Calgary. This year we are also bringing back the Demonstration Corner. **Want to know specifically what we are presenting....** All abstract summaries and speaker bios are listed on the [website](#) for the upcoming events in Edmonton and Calgary.

#### SPACE IS LIMITED!

Includes Breakfast & Conference: 7:30 - 3:00 pm.  
with Lunch & Networking Opportunities

**Early Bird Pricing of \$169 in effect until February 14, 2020.**

**March 11, 2020 – Edmonton**  
Fairmont Hotel Macdonald  
10065 100 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5J 0N6

**March 12, 2020 – Calgary**  
Sheraton Suites Calgary Eau Claire  
255 Barclay Parade SW  
Calgary, AB T2P 5C2

 **REGISTER TODAY!**



**Please mark your calendars for the 2020 CPANS Annual Conference:**  
Conference Theme: CPANS 2020 - A Clear View of Air & Waste Management Issues  
Date: Wednesday, May 13th, 2020  
Venue: Lister Conference Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta

### General Information

The 2020 CPANS annual conference will be held at the Lister Conference Center, Edmonton, Alberta. Participants of this conference will include environmental researchers, educators, students, environmental managers, other professionals, environmental industries and policy makers. The conference will be a great opportunity for attendees to develop new collaborations and share knowledge with experts from various fields in air and waste management. For more information on the conference, please visit the CPANS website. <http://cpans.org/event/cpans-2020-a-clear-view/>

### Call for Abstracts

If you are interested in presenting at this year's conference, please submit an **abstract** to Kim O'Neill at [Kim.ONeill@aecom.com](mailto:Kim.ONeill@aecom.com) on or before **March 3rd, 2020** along with your **biography**.

### Abstract Instruction and Format

The abstract should be 350 words or less. Type font should be Calibri 12 point. The presentation title (in bold) should be at the top of the page. If selected, authors will be able to alter the presentation title up to two weeks prior to the conference date. The affiliation for each author should be next, followed by the author's name, mailing address, phone number, and email address (all in bold). Email will be the primary means for communication. The conference committee reserves the right to edit the abstract for grammar and format since it may be used in the preliminary and final programs for the conference.

### Author Name and Biography

A brief biography of the presenter must be included with the abstract. Please describe, in no more than 150 words, the professional background, credentials, and education of the presenter.

Please contact Kim O'Neill with any questions at [Kim.ONeill@aecom.com](mailto:Kim.ONeill@aecom.com).



### Conference Schedule Available

SWANA Northern Lights will be hosting the 2020 SWANA Canadian Symposium at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel.

Delegates from across North America will attend to hear the latest stories and trends in Safety, Landfills, Climate Change, Recycling and Technology. We are also offering workshops and sessions in disaster preparedness, communications and alternative technologies.

The Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel & Conference Centre is the Basecamp for the SWANA Northern Lights Chapter and SWANA Canadian Symposium. Our week together is about reaching for the summit. We'll see you there!

**When: April 20-23, 2020**

**Where: Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel & Conference Centre**

Registration is also open (delegates and trade show), and early-bird rates are still in effect until March 25, 2020. Don't delay - register today!

For more information on the conference, visit <https://swananorthernlights.org/conference/2020-conference>

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### ***INFORMATION SESSION ON DOING BUSINESS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA***

Given the interest expressed by entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises in learning more about how the Government of Canada buys goods & services and how to become a supplier/ vendor to the Government of Canada, I'd like to share with you a **free information session** being held on **February 27<sup>th</sup>** (10:00am-11:30am MST) that may be of interest to you and/ or those in your reach.

Here is a link to the event: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/doing-business-with-the-government-of-canada-seminar-webinar-tickets-95274993069>

The session is available for participation in-person or online. We have received great feedback from sessions held in Calgary and look forward to hosting in Edmonton.

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### ***WETLANDS 101: INTRODUCTION TO BOREAL WETLANDS – FIELD AND ONLINE TRAINING, APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2020 AT EVERGREEN PARK, GRANDE PRAIRIE***

This training provides an opportunity for learning and exchanging boreal wetland information with a network of industry, government, academic, consulting, not-for-profit, and other interested contacts from across the country. The course overview will cover wetland identification and classification, recognizing key vegetation indicator species, wetland ecology, tools and resources for wetland field work, and more.

The Wetlands 101 training is supported and administered by Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and is open to anyone who wishes to join, so please consider sharing this invitation with anyone you think might be interested in participating. Please visit the link above for detailed information on the course format, learning objectives, and instructor profiles.

Registration for this event can be found at: [https://wetlands-101.ducks.ca/index.php?option=com\\_virtuemart&view=productdetails&virtuemart\\_product\\_id=2&Itemid=223](https://wetlands-101.ducks.ca/index.php?option=com_virtuemart&view=productdetails&virtuemart_product_id=2&Itemid=223)

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## ***Industry Positions Openings***



**As a benefit of ESAA Membership**, ESAA Members can now post position openings on our website at no charge. Position opening ads also will appear in the newsletter at no charge. For full details visit: <https://www.esaa.org/news/job-board/>

**Note:** You must still complete the advertising form. After completing the order form, you will receive an email with a link to post your position.

**Non-Members** are welcome to advertise as well for a nominal charge. Visit [advertising form](#) to place your order.

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<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Details</b>
Senior Environmental Specialist	LEHDER Environmental Group	2020-02-08	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Archaeology Field Technician	H3M Environmental	2020-02-29		<a href="#">more</a>

Intermediate Environmental Engineer	Secure Energy	2020-02-28	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Senior Environmental Site Assessment Specialist	SNC Lavalin Inc.	2020-02-29	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Field Director/ Supervisor	H3M Enviromental	2020-02-29	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Archaeology Permit Holder	H3M Environmental	2020-02-29	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Junior Environmental Scientist	Trace Associates Inc.	2020-02-29	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Municipal Approvals Engineer	Government of Alberta	2020-03-05	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
3544 - Business Lead (Calgary, Alberta)	SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	2020-03-07	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
3544B - Project Manager (Lloydminster, Alberta)	SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	2020-03-07	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Waste Management Specialist	GHD Limited	2020-03-12	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Environmental Engineer Project Manager - Contaminated Sites & Remediation	GHD Limited	2020-03-12	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Ecology & EIA Lead	GHD Limited	2020-03-12	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
3544C - Environmental Practitioner II	SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	2020-03-14		<a href="#">more</a>
Environmental Assistant	Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting	2020-03-18		<a href="#">more</a>
Soil Handling Monitor	Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting	2020-03-11		<a href="#">more</a>
Intermediate Vegetation Ecologist	Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting	2020-03-11		<a href="#">more</a>
Soil Surveyor	Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting	2020-03-11		<a href="#">more</a>
Environmental Inspector	Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting	2020-03-18		<a href="#">more</a>
Environmental Engineer	McElhanney	2020-03-19	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>