

# Weekly NEWS



An Information Service for Alberta's Environment Industry

The Week Ending May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**STAYS SAFE  
AND STAY  
POSITIVE**

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**Comments & submissions are welcome!**

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



## **SITE REHABILITATION PROGRAM INFORMATION**

On April 24th the Government of Alberta announced the Site Rehabilitation Program (SRP). ESAA Management and Board have been working to gather as much information from the Government about the program to share with the membership.

ESAA's Board of Directors has written a letter to the Premier and the Alberta Energy Minister requesting additional information, being more involved with the process and identifying our memberships as recognized leaders in the remediation and reclamation sector. A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

Additionally, ESAA has asked that Alberta Energy provide an update to the ESAA Membership and industry via a webinar.

Below is a summary of the program information that we have received to date:

- Program Website - [Link](#)
- \$1 billion in federal funding will be issued in phases.
- Phase 1 of funding begins Friday, May 1. [The online application will be accessible via this link.](#)
- \$30,000 was assigned as the maximum fund allocation per application to the first round of funding so the process can be refined on lower value contracts.
- There is no limit to the number of applications service providers can make during the first phase.
- Applications for first phase can be made until May 31, 2020.
- The program will continue to be adjusted and rolled out in the months to come, and is geared toward oilfield service contractors.
- Service contractors do not have to be Prime to receive funds; grants are awarded directly to applicants.
- While the program is geared towards service providers, it does not exclude engineering company applications.
- Contracts are to be worked out between the service provider and the Licensee, Operator, or Prime Contractor.
- A contract and application can be made for a portion of the work necessary to abandon a wellsite. For example, applications for three separate contracts: Contractor A for cementing, Contractor B for downhole work, and Contractor C for reclamation, for up to \$30,000 each, can be made for work on one abandonment.
- The system will be set up and tracked by UWI to avoid duplication of services on the same site.
- Funds are allocated to successful applicants in phases: 10% for start-up costs (fuel, wages, etc.), 60% for middle installments after invoices and sign-offs are received, and the remainder once the Licensee, Prime, or Operator receives final sign-off (PEng or PAg).
- For payment to be received by the contractor, the well licensee/Operator must sign off on the tickets/invoices confirming that they are satisfied with the work and that it was completed.

- Available areas will be province-wide to start.
- Contractors will have one login for the application website per company.
- AER will be benchmarking for pricing based on scope of work.
- Pre-application costs are not reimbursable.

Watch for additional information in the coming days.



Joe Chowaniec  
ESAA Executive Director



Stacy Thygesen  
ESAA President  
JSK Consulting

**ESAA WEBINAR SERIES**  
**Sponsor a Webinar**

ESAA's webinar series is now in its second week and is averaging 200+ participants per webinar. We asked and our participants have overwhelmingly told us to keep the webinars free, so we are asking for companies to step up and sponsor the remaining webinars. Your support helps ESAA offset the costs of running the entire series.

**Become A Sponsor!**

Sponsorship is only \$295 per webinar and includes recognition on the ESAA Webinar page, the registration page and during the webinar.

To sponsor an upcoming webinar, [click here](#).

To view the list of upcoming webinars and to register visit: [www.esaa.org/events/webinars/](http://www.esaa.org/events/webinars/)

*There are also a couple of speaking spots available during the series. If you have an interesting, timely topic that you think will be of interest to a large cross section of the industry, please contact Joe at the ESAA Office.*

Thank you again for your continued support during the time.

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## ***\$1 BILLION PROGRAM TO CREATE 5,300 JOBS***

A new program will provide the energy industry with access to up to \$1 billion, creating jobs to immediately get Albertans back to work.

The Site Rehabilitation Program – mainly funded by the federal government’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan – will provide grants to oilfield service contractors to perform well, pipeline, and oil and gas site reclamation work. Starting now, the program is expected to create about 5,300 direct jobs and lead to the cleanup of thousands of sites.

This work will be done in Alberta, putting Albertans back to work. The program will also provide additional economic benefits, such as indirect employment, helping support various sectors of Alberta’s economy – including restaurant and hotel workers, and many other businesses – as it begins to reopen and recover after the effects of COVID-19.

“Alberta’s energy industry is the largest subsector of Canada’s economy, as well as one of its biggest job creators. We are creating almost 5,300 jobs for Alberta’s energy workers, while completing important work decommissioning and reclaiming abandoned pump jacks, pipelines and wells. This will ensure that sites are properly addressed, benefiting landowners and Albertans across the province.” - Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy

This program will launch on May 1, with an initial focus on providing grants to service companies that have been significantly impacted by the unprecedented economic downturn. The program will provide funds in \$100-million increments.

The first \$100 million will be available for service companies to do eligible work anywhere in the province. Future increments may be allocated for work conducted in specific regions within the province, directing funds where they can have the most significant environmental benefits.

All laws, regulations, directives, and environmental and occupational health and safety standards, including physical distancing and COVID-19-related health guidelines, must be followed in carrying out the work.

Full Details at: [Site Rehabilitation Program](#)

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## ***AER: FORT McMURRAY FLOOD RESPONSE***

The AER and all oil sands companies are monitoring flood waters in the Fort McMurray area closely. Companies have increased surveillance, and the AER is in regular contact. AER staff remain prepared to respond should the situation change.

Fort McMurray’s downtown is approximately 35 km upstream of the closest oil sands site, which includes tailings ponds. The AER is working closely with industry to ensure they have increased monitoring of their structures and taking necessary proactive measures. Effected oil sands mining operators have increased surveillance and must report all emergency events.

Energy-related tailings ponds and dams are regulated by the AER. These plans include comprehensive oversight regarding safety by directing operators to use the best applicable technology and practices in the design, construction, operation, monitoring, and decommissioning of these structures. This includes emergency preparedness and planning.

Regular surveillance of tailings infrastructure is conducted by operators and the AER to ensure the ongoing safety of the structures. Emergency response plans are in place and tested to ensure an effective response to address emergency events. You can find more information on our website about the AER’s [dam safety program](#) and [how we prepare for and respond to an incident](#).

Should you need to report an incident, please contact the AER’s 24-hour emergency line at 1-800-222-6514.

**Update: April 29 @ 1:00 pm**

The AER has not received notice of any breach or other impacts as a result of high river levels along the Athabasca River. Effected operators have increased their monitoring of these structures, and the AER is in regular contact with them. Operators have mitigation strategies in place to address any issues that arise.

AER staff are on site conducting field verifications and gathering information. At the present time and based on current information, there is no imminent risk of flood water breaching any tailings ponds.

The Government of Alberta's river forecast centre reports that water level measures within the ice jam on the Athabasca River have dropped by half a metre since last evening. Additionally, 4 kilometres of the ice jam melted overnight. The ice jam has also shown some movement this morning. Although there are some water level increases expected, forecasters say tailings ponds are not at risk of flooding.

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### ***NEW RESOURCE\_ CANADIAN CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT KNOWLEDGE PORTAL***

For years, practitioners and managers have been seeking a way to access and share the best available resources in conservation and land management. However, we've often found ourselves hindered by a lack of information and the duplication and siloing of data and knowledge.

This is why, as one of several organizations collaborating in the Canadian Conservation Land Management Knowledge Network - or the CCLM - I am extremely pleased to announce the official launch of a new web resource, the CCLM Knowledge Portal ([www.cclmportal.ca](http://www.cclmportal.ca)), an accessible online platform which has been developed to try to address this challenge. It's a tool to connect knowledge holders and a forum for sharing information and lessons learned about boreal caribou conservation, wetland best practices and land management.



Housing hundreds of high-quality, relevant resources, and **featuring powerful search functions**, the CCLM Knowledge Portal is designed to grow communities of practice and to facilitate knowledge exchange. It currently consists of one main portal divided into three subportals, created to reflect the expertise of the collaborating organizations involved. These include Boreal Caribou, Wetland Knowledge and Land Management.

What can you find on the CCLM Knowledge Portal?

- Best management practices
- Reports, program updates, historical information
- Scientific literature, briefing notes and research findings in other formats
- Videos and technical guides
- Latest news and events
- Maps (including an interactive map on the Boreal Caribou subportal)
- Western science and Indigenous knowledge
- A variety of newsletters to subscribe to
- Individual and organizational contacts

These are still the early days for the site and the network and we welcome your feedback so we can better plan any future development. If you are interested in seeing any of your resources available on the site, please reach out with any questions or to learn more about getting involved with the CCLM.

***I invite you to visit the [CCLM Knowledge Portal](#) and start browsing for resources!*** I've also attached an Organizational Profile to provide more information and you may want to watch the videos (links below) which highlight some of the site's key features.

Learn to Navigate the CCLM - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZqYD86pb-k>

Explore the Boreal Caribou Interactive Map: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gR8tEI1Zct4>

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## ***Featured ESAA Member***

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ESAA is starting a new feature in the newsletter. Each week will shine the light on one ESAA member. If you are interested in being profiled, contact Joe at the ESAA office ([chowaniec@esaa.org](mailto:chowaniec@esaa.org))

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### **Who is Matidor?**

Matidor is an intuitive collaboration platform that helps you organize projects on a live-updating map with easy visualization, team collaboration, and management. More consultancies and upstream oil and gas producers (E&P) now choose to use Matidor to manage their projects over spreadsheets because it leads to higher productivity and client satisfaction. Our key features to help companies stay on top of their daily workflow include a centralized dashboard showing budgets, cost reports, files & historical details. In addition, our detailed site maps & user-friendly GIS tools help eliminate collaboration hurdles between departments, improve operational efficiency, and business development effectiveness.

### **Why was the company founded?**

Matidor was founded on the basis of inefficiencies in the project management cycle for a lot of environmental projects. The environmental and field service industry has been overwhelmed by the amount of information flowing between stakeholders: Correspondence, reports, field data, photos, financials, and the list goes on. Spreadsheets and paper-based systems are still in use, and their lack of practicality cannot be overstated. Meanwhile outdated and hard-to-use legacy software does not offer much help: they're complex, siloed, often impractical and brittle and therefore unloved by

the people who need them most. This leads to problems such as lost, incomplete or erroneous data, team member frustrations, duplication of effort and poor time management

**What makes your products and/or services unique?**

Matidor's interactive map interface uniquely meets the needs of field professionals: geospatial and project information relating to physical locations can be readily seen and understood by both technical and business audiences thanks to its intuitiveness and connectivity. Our one-stop solution gives companies total visibility over their entire operation portfolio on a map, which can be zoomed in at any time for specific project's site layout, tasks, budgets, expenses, files, and historical activities. Rapid access to information improves efficiency, enables better decisions, and reduces safety and financial risks. In addition, Matidor's unlimited sharing eliminates the collaboration hurdles between companies and unlocks new business development opportunities.

**How does your company give back to the community or the industry?**

As an effort to help local companies in the environmental sector during these unprecedented times, Matidor is offering our platform unlimited usage at a greatly reduced flat fee structure. We are here to support the cause of environmental clean-ups and related sustainability efforts, and to allow companies to be equipped with the right tools for growth in the future

For more information about this weeks featured member, visit: <https://matidor.com/>

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## Industry Positions Openings

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**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.

Job Title	Organization	Application Deadline	Term	Details
Environmental Scientist or Biologist - 5 to 10 Years Experience	Langan	2020-04-30	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Senior Environmental Engineer/Geoscientist	DILLON CONSULTING LIMITED	2020-04-30	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
MRF Operations Manager	KBL Environmental	2020-04-30	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Air Quality Scientist I	SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	2020-05-08	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Air Quality Scientist II	SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	2020-05-08		<a href="#">more</a>
Reclamation Specialists	EARTHMASTER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES INC	2020-06-13	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Department Manager I	Element Materials Technology	2020-03-16	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>