

# Weekly NEWS

esaa Environmental Services Association of Alberta

An Information Service for Alberta's Environment Industry

The Week Ending May 22<sup>nd</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)

## EnviroTech

Virtual EnviroTech 2020  
June 11 & 12

ESAA is pleased to announce that the program for the virtual version of EnviroTech is now available online at: [www.esaa.org/envirotech/agenda/](http://www.esaa.org/envirotech/agenda/). The program features 27 talks, spread over seven (7) webinars over the two (2) days.

ESAA has intentionally kept the registration fees low and are asking everyone to register, spread the word about the event and presentation. Approximately 90% of ESAA's revenues come from events, and now more than ever your Association needs your support!

**Registration rates:** (includes all seven webinars)

- Member: \$49
- Non-Member: \$79
- Registration Link: [Click Here](#)

**How can you help ESAA?**

- Register
- Spread the word to clients, colleagues and via platforms like LinkedIn.

**Thank you to our event sponsors for your continued support!**

**Diamond Sponsor**



**Virtual Event Sponsors**



## ESAA WEEKLY WEBINAR SERIES

This week ESAA will offering three webinars. Additional webinars are being added each week. If you are looking for the archives of previous presentations, they can be found online at: [www.esaa.org/webinars](http://www.esaa.org/webinars)



### Upcoming Webinar Schedule

Title	Date	Registration Link	Sponsored by:
<p><b>NEW – Shoreline Remediation of Petroleum Hydrocarbons Using an Oleophilic Bio Barrier for Sheen Control</b> Jeff Gentry, Jacobs Engineering</p>	<p>Thursday May 21st 11 am – 12 pm</p>	<p><a href="#">Register Now</a></p>	
<p><b>NEW – Managing Environmental Risks &amp; Liabilities: The Legal Perspective</b> Jacquelyn Stevens, Anand Srivastava, Willms &amp; Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 26th 11 am – 12 pm</p>	<p><a href="#">Register Now</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Available</a></p>
<p><b>Hydrogen Sulphide: Limits, Detection and Treatment</b> Bill Berzins, West Earth Sciences</p>	<p>Wednesday, May 27th 11 am – 12 pm</p>	<p><a href="#">Register Now</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Available</a></p>
<p><b>NEW – Cyber Security: Mitigating Risks and Protecting Data</b> Ryan Duquette, RSM Canada</p>	<p>Thursday May 28th 11 am – 12 pm</p>	<p><a href="#">Register Now</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Available</a></p>
<p><b>Disruptive Energy Transition</b> Kae Shummoogum, Gasonic</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 3rd 11 am – 12 pm</p>	<p><a href="#">Register Now</a></p>	
<p><b>Effective In-Situ LNAPL and DNAPL Site Remediation Using Innovative Surfactant Enhanced Remediation Techniques</b> George (Bud) Ivey, Ivey International</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 10th 11 am – 12 pm</p>	<p><a href="#">Register Now</a></p>	
<p><b>NEW – Virtual EnviroTech 2020</b> 27 presentations, 7 webinars, 13 hours of Professional Development <a href="#">AGENDA</a></p>	<p>Thursday &amp; Friday, June 11th and 12th Various Times</p>	<p><a href="#">Register Now</a></p>	
<p><b>How To Manage Remote Work Effectively and Reduce Cost During Critical Times</b> Vincent Lam and Sean Huang, Matidor</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 17th 11 am – 12 pm</p>	<p><a href="#">Register Now</a></p>	

# The time for positive impact is now.

## The Alberta Site Rehabilitation Program has launched.

With this, comes many opportunities for Alberta's economy and the environment. Tree Time provides support to our clients through all stages of their reclamation projects, maintaining the highest level of health and safety standards, and respect for Alberta's land. Due to the popularity of this program and limited access to funding, we need to move quickly. If you have a reclaimed or restored site that is ready for planting, we have seedlings available and can help you get your reclamation certificate faster.

Find out how we can help at [TreeTimeServices.ca/ASRP](https://TreeTimeServices.ca/ASRP)



### ***ALBERTA ENERGY REGULATOR CLARIFIES MODIFICATIONS TO REPORTING AND OTHER REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS***

(Source: Mondaq and Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP) The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) recently provided important clarification on two ministerial orders that suspended a number of reporting requirements applicable to the oil and gas industry. Updates on Alberta Energy ministerial order 219/2020 and Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) ministerial order 17/2020 can be found [here](#) and [here](#), respectively.

#### ***AEP ministerial order***

The AER confirmed that despite the temporary suspension of various reporting requirements under regulatory approvals issued under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, the *Water Act* and the *Public Lands Act*, the following reporting requirements continue to apply to operations regulated by the AER:

- bird protection plans for oil sands;
- annual mine financial security program submissions, aggregate management plan updates and disclosure of areas cleared for oil sands and coal operations;
- final reclamation reports for dams and canals under the *Water Act*; and
- dam safety submissions for all high, very high and extreme consequence dams regulated by the AER.

## ***Alberta Energy ministerial order***

Alberta Energy ministerial order 219/2020 temporarily suspended various requirements under the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act* to the extent necessary to comply with applicable *Public Health Act* orders. The AER has clarified that the following AER requirements are temporarily suspended:

- reporting any release less than 20 m<sup>3</sup> that is contained within a facility or well lease boundary, but only if the emergency response plan was not activated, there was no impact to water or public safety, and the licensee immediately took reasonable steps to contain and clean up the release;
- reporting pipeline frac-out releases from horizontal directional drilling, but only if there is no impact or potential impact to a water body or public safety;
- calibrating or proving meters unless related to royalty or custody transfer points;
- providing annual submissions on non-operating glycol dehydrators;
- notifying of sweet flaring and venting, but only if there is no potential impact to the public;
- repairing fugitive emission leaks, but only if the emissions are not causing off-lease odours, are not caused by a failed pilot or ignitor on a flare stack, or are not a safety issue;
- ensuring access to compressor packing vents;
- holding emergency response exercises and submitting updates to emergency response plans;
- conducting packer isolation tests;
- providing triannual fugitive emissions surveys for sweet gas plants and compressor stations, provided they are replaced with an emission screening;
- conducting spring 2020 groundwater or soil monitoring events and analysis for oil field waste management facilities, including landfills;
- conducting laboratory analysis of leachate collection system sampling and leak detection system sampling for oil field waste management facilities; and
- annual testing, for the 2020 calendar year, after a non-serious surface casing vent flow has been reported.
- Industry must continue to record and retain complete documentation and make such documentation available to the AER upon request.

### ***Application of the AER clarifications***

It is important to note the above AER clarifications apply only to AER regulatory requirements. **Environmental permits and reporting requirements administered by AEP are not affected.**

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## ***BRITISH COLUMBIA ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO CLEAN UP ORPHAN AND INACTIVE WELLS***

(Source: Bennett Jones LLP) On May 13, 2020, British Columbia announced how it will administer the \$120 million in federal funds earmarked to clean up orphaned and inactive oil and gas wells under [COVID-19 Economic Response Plan for the Canada's Energy Sector](#). British Columbia is the second province to roll out its programming in relation to these federal funds. Alberta was the first jurisdiction to announce its [Site Rehabilitation Program](#) and [continues to make adjustments](#) as the program is implemented. Saskatchewan has not yet announced how it will administer the \$400 million allocated to the Government of Saskatchewan to support work to clean up orphan and inactive oil and gas wells across the province.

In its [news release](#), British Columbia states that it intends to invest this funding across three new programs:

- The **Dormant Sites Reclamation Program** will provide \$100 million to reclaim dormant oil and gas sites. Dormant wells are wells that have been inactive for five consecutive years and are unlikely to be returned to service. This program will provide up to \$100,000, or 50% of total costs of site cleanup, whichever is less.
- The **Orphan Sites Supplemental Reclamation Program** will provide \$15 million to reclaim orphan oil and gas sites where the operator is insolvent, no longer exists or cannot be located. This program will be administered by the BC Oil and Gas Commission.
- The **Legacy Sites Reclamation Program** will provide \$5 million to address the legacy impacts of historical oil and gas activities that continue to have environmental impacts, such as on wildlife habitat or on the traditional use by Indigenous peoples.

Applications for the Dormant Sites Reclamation Program will be accepted starting on May 25, 2020. Kick-off dates for the Legacy Sites Reclamation and Orphan Sites Supplemental Reclamation Programs have not yet been released.

Oil and gas field service companies and contractors based in British Columbia, with registration, office and operations in British Columbia, may participate in the programs.

### ***Similarities and Differences***

At this early stage, a few comparisons may be made between the two provinces' approaches:

- BC's Dormant Sites Reclamation Program is intended to have sites fully reclaimed, whereas in Alberta there is greater flexibility as to the types of work that can be applied for.
- The \$100,000 ceiling for eligible clean-up costs provided by BC's Dormant Sites Reclamation Program will permit a greater variety of sites to benefit from program funds. In comparison, Alberta's program currently limits applications to \$30,000 per activity.
- Alberta's Site Rehabilitation Program calls for licensees to contribute to proposed costs where the Department of Energy determines they are able to do so, but is currently not applying that criteria to this round of applications. BC's Dormant Sites Reclamation Program requires licensees to contribute to some of the clean-up costs associated with their sites.
- Both provinces' programs are billed as job creation and environmental initiatives and focus on contractors and oil and gas field service companies.
- At this early stage, it appears that, like Alberta, BC's programs will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis. Given the heavy demand seen for Alberta's Site Rehabilitation Program, companies wishing to participate in BC's programs may wish to act quickly to secure their application's spot in line.
- In both provinces, sites may be nominated by landowners.
- In BC, First Nations and municipal governments may also nominate sites, though no process has been set out by which to do so.

### ***Next Steps***

We will continue to provide updates as additional information on all three programs becomes available. We expect that as each of the programs develops and evolves, that the province's respective experiences may impact future iterations.

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## ***TRIO OF RECENT SUPREME COURT OF CANADA DECISIONS SIGNALS PROVINCES CANNOT IMPEDE FEDERAL UNDERTAKINGS UNDER THE GUISE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION***

(Source: HazMat Magazine and McCarthy Tétrault LLP) On April 16, 2020, the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed an application to appeal a judgment rendered by the Québec Court of Appeal in 2019 regarding the inapplicability of certain provincial environmental requirements with respect to federally-regulated activities carried out on Port of Québec lands (*Attorney General of Quebec v. IMTT-Québec inc.*, 2019 QCCA 1598). This ending to a fourteen-year saga consolidates a recent line of Supreme Court of Canada decisions limiting the application of provincial environmental permit requirements to federal undertakings such as ports, airfields and pipelines. McCarthy Tétrault LLP successfully represented the Quebec Port Authority ("**QPA**") and IMTT-Québec Inc. ("**IMTT**") in this significant matter, which will have direct and significant implications for many industries throughout the country.

### **The Port of Québec Matter**

#### ***Background***

IMTT is a federally-incorporated company that handles and stores bulk liquid products in large tanks on federal property it leases from the Quebec Port Authority ("**QPA**"). IMTT's customers rent these tanks to transit the various products delivered to the Port of Québec mainly by ship. The products are then loaded onto railway tank cars, tank trucks or other ships and delivered to their final destination. Although IMTT is not responsible for handling the transshipment of products, IMTT monitors the operations, assists operators and provides its clients with heating, cooling, blending and dilution services.

While IMTT had previously obtained certificates of authorization from the Québec environmental authorities in accordance with the provincial *Environment Quality Act* ("**EQA**"), it decided not to seek provincial authorization when it began planning new tank construction projects to increase capacity in 2006. Claiming it was a company under federal jurisdiction not subject to the EQA, IMTT rather sought and obtained authorization from the QPA and federal authorities pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Canada Port Authority Environmental Assessment Regulations*.

The Attorney General of Québec (“**AGQ**”) initially petitioned the Court for an injunction prohibiting IMTT from using the new reservoirs until a certificate of authorization was delivered pursuant to the EQA. Although the parties entered into a standstill agreement while attempting to reach a negotiated arrangement, IMTT terminated the agreement when provincial authorities decided to hold further public hearings about the project. IMTT and the QPA then initiated legal proceedings seeking a declaration that the EQA’s authorization scheme was either inapplicable or inoperative with regard to IMTT’s federal activities within the Port of Québec. The Attorney General of Canada (“**AGC**”) intervened in support of the applicants’ position as a result of the AGQ contending that the site of IMTT’s operations was not federal land.

### ***The Trial Judgment***

In a Superior Court decision rendered in 2016, the Honourable Gilles Blanchet concluded that the QPA’s and IMTT’s activities take place on federal property and that they also fall under the federal constitutional domains of navigation and interprovincial trade. Applying the doctrine of federal paramountcy, Justice Blanchet found that the challenged provisions of the EQA conflict with and frustrate the purpose of federal port and environmental legislation, including the *Canada Marine Act*, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and related regulations.

### ***The Court of Appeal’s Ruling***

On September 26, 2019, the Québec Court of Appeal essentially endorsed the QPA and IMTT’s arguments on both grounds of interjurisdictional immunity and federal paramountcy.

The Court of Appeal upheld the trial judge’s conclusions that IMTT’s activities take place on property belonging to the federal Crown and that they are closely integrated with navigation and shipping, thus falling within these two federal heads of power as per s. 91 of the *Constitution Act 1867*.

The Court of Appeal noted that the doctrine of interjurisdictional immunity is intended to prevent one level of government – generally provincial – from impairing the unassailable core of a jurisdiction attributed to another level of government. The trial judge had however found that the absence of precedent from a higher court applying the doctrine in the specific context of environmental legislation conflicting against the federal jurisdictions over shipping, navigation or Crown property prevented him from applying the doctrine in the case at bar. The Court of Appeal declined to follow this narrower interpretation of interjurisdictional immunity. Not only is the nature of the impugned provincial legislation not a material factor in the search for a precedent, but the Supreme Court of Canada also left the door slightly ajar in *PHS Community Services* (2011 SCC 44) to identify new areas of exclusive jurisdiction where interjurisdictional immunity applies. While the Supreme Court limited the scope of application of the doctrine *mostly* to situations already covered by precedents, interjurisdictional immunity continues to protect the “basic, minimum and unassailable” powers listed in ss. 91 and 92 of the *Constitution Act 1867* from being “impaired” by legislation of another level of government.

Applying these principles to the case at bar, the Court of Appeal concluded that there are in fact sufficient precedents establishing federal jurisdiction over the control and planning of Crown property, most notably *Lafarge*, in which the Supreme Court held that provincial law cannot affect a “vital part” of federal property rights. The Court of Appeal thus found that EQA’s discretionary authorization scheme could not apply to projects under exclusive federal jurisdiction, as it would impair federal jurisdiction over shipping, navigation and Crown property. Put otherwise, the Court of Appeal held that provincial environmental authorization mechanisms must be tied to projects falling under provincial heads of power, which was not the case here with IMTT’s activities.

Furthermore and alternatively, the Court of Appeal upheld the trial Judge’s conclusion that the EQA’s environmental authorization scheme was constitutionally inoperative with respect to IMTT’s activities pursuant to the doctrine of federal paramountcy. Federal paramountcy applies either where there is an operational conflict between a valid provincial law and a valid federal law, or where the provincial statute frustrates the purpose of the federal legislation. In the case at hand, the Court found that the EQA’s discretionary authorization mechanism conflicted with federal regulations, which are intended to grant federal authorities an exclusive right to assess and authorize port projects.

### **The Trans Mountain Pipeline Matter**

Significantly, the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision not to hear the AGQ’s appeal in the Port of Québec matter is in line with other recent decisions from the Court.

On January 16, 2020, the Supreme Court unanimously endorsed the Court of Appeal for British Columbia's reasons in the *Reference re Environmental Management Act (British Columbia)* matter (2019 BCCA 181) relative to the Trans Mountain pipeline.

The legislative provisions at hand essentially introduced a requirement that heavy oil companies obtain a hazardous substance permit, which could be withheld or issued with conditions at the province's discretion. Amongst the admitted objectives of the impugned provisions were the protection of environment and the implementation of the "polluter pays" principle to oil carriers. The Court of Appeal concluded that it needed not to resort to the doctrines of interjurisdictional immunity or federal paramountcy to decide the matter. Rather, it found that the provisions were *ultra vires*, as their pith and substance was not to generally regulate the environment, but to regulate a federal undertaking, i.e. the interprovincial carrying and exportation of oil.

### **The Municipality of Mascouche Airfield Matter**

On April 16, 2020, the Supreme Court also dismissed the AGQ's application for leave to appeal in the 9105425 *Canada Association* file pertaining to the construction of an airfield. In 2018, the Superior Court of Québec had found that the requirement that the promoters of an airfield in the municipality of Mascouche obtain an authorization from provincial authorities to begin construction was constitutionally inapplicable to the project pursuant to the doctrine of interjurisdictional immunity, as it impaired the core of the federal jurisdiction over aeronautics. The Court of Appeal of Québec, in August 2019, declined to take position, as the promoters renounced to the construction of the airfield and the appeal thus became moot. Nevertheless, both the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court did not see the need to intervene to recognize some form of provincial jurisdiction over the environmental aspects surrounding the construction of an airfield.

### **Conclusion**

In 2007, the Supreme Court of Canada warned against an extensive application of the doctrine of interjurisdictional immunity and advocated in *Canadian Western Bank* judgment (2007 SCC 22) for the striking of a balance between federal and provincial powers especially in areas of overlapping jurisdiction. The recent Supreme Court of Canada developments highlight the borders of this balance and warn provinces against encroachment of federal undertakings under the guise of environmental protection. The implications of these decisions are significant for federally-regulated undertakings in Canada and will likely be discussed extensively in coming months as governments, industries and other stakeholders consider how to develop industrial projects rapidly as part of the economic recovery efforts, while seeking social acceptability and enhancing environmental protection measures.

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### ***40 YEARS AFTER ITS FAMED ERUPTION, MT. ST. HELENS LOOMS AS A MARVEL AND A THREAT***

(Source: LA Times) On the morning of May 18, 1980, an earthquake shook Mt. St. Helens and the mountain's north face collapsed in one of the largest debris avalanches ever recorded.

The slide uncorked the volcano, baring magma that exploded with 500 times the force of the Hiroshima bomb in the most destructive eruption in U.S. history.

The [cataclysmic chain of events](#) killed 57 people and thousands of animals, took out 250 homes, 47 bridges and 185 miles of highway, clogged rivers with sediment, flooded valleys and blocked the Columbia River shipping channel.

Forty years later, the destruction may not be over.

The landslide remade [Spirit Lake](#) — once a beloved recreation spot at the volcano's base — raising the lake bed by 200 feet and dumping debris that functions as a huge dam holding back 73 billion gallons of water.

U.S. Forest Service officials say the [situation is precarious](#): The only relief valve for the 3-square-mile lake is a 1.6-mile drainage tunnel hurriedly built in 1985 and deformed repeatedly by faults and subsidence.

A breach is not thought to be imminent, but if it occurred the results would be disastrous.

Chris Strebig, [Spirit Lake project](#) manager for the Forest Service, said a massive surge of water, mud and debris could inundate cities below and disable four Columbia River ports: Longview, Vancouver and Kalama in Washington and the Port of Portland in Oregon.

“We are doing everything we can to make sure that never happens,” Strebbig said. “It would be somewhat of a repeat of the 1980 mudslide that went downstream.”

The Forest Service [proposes to drill into the debris](#) to assess how much lake water the natural dam can safely restrain and how it might perform when the massive and long-predicted Cascadia earthquake finally strikes. A deteriorating cast iron gate at the tunnel entrance would be replaced with a safer double barrier.

None of that is especially controversial, given the potential catastrophe. A conflict, however, is coming to a head over another issue: how to bring workers and equipment into the remote section of the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

The Forest Service wants to build a temporary 3¼-mile road across the Pumice Plain, an area that was scoured by the landslide and eruption in 1980 but has since experienced a remarkable [regeneration of plants and animals](#).

Researchers who study the area argue that helicopters could be used to ferry workers and equipment in order to preserve the fragile ecosystem.

The scientists describe the plain as a unique blank slate where they have watched nature recolonize.

“It’s an amazing area that people thought would take hundreds of years to recover, but it’s happened far faster than we thought,” said Carri LeRoy, an Evergreen State College freshwater ecologist studying watersheds that the road would bisect.

Charlie Crisafulli, a Pacific Northwest Research Station ecologist, said that when he began work in the blast area in July 1980, scientists expected that life would recolonize merely from the edges.

“Boy, how naive we were,” he said.

Northern pocket gophers — nocturnal creatures that survived underground when the volcano blew — emerged to build mounds, bringing up crucial carbon and nitrogen that helped plants to sprout.

Willow bushes grew, attracting songbirds and beavers that built ponds. Deer and elk returned. Nutrients flowed into Spirit Lake, supporting an aquatic ecosystem.

Once a steaming black stew full of uprooted trees and dead animals, the lake appears serene, dotted with thousands of logs. Researchers have discovered insect species that may exist nowhere else.

The scientists believe they have the law on their side. The 172-square-mile Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument was established in 1982 under an act of Congress requiring managers to allow “geologic forces and ecological succession to continue substantially unimpeded.”

The monument’s centerpiece is the 8,366-foot mountain, which lost more than 1,300 feet from the eruption. The Johnston Ridge Observatory provides views of the exposed crater and a lava dome taller than the Seattle Space Needle.

Jim Gawel, a University of Washington Tacoma environmental engineer who studies the lake, said that road construction would alter natural patterns of erosion and probably introduce invasive species via tires and tractor treads.

“If you start messing with that, it takes away the whole reason you created the monument,” he said.

Harry Romberg, a Sierra Club Washington chapter volunteer, said the Forest Service should have looked harder at transporting workers and equipment by helicopter.

A boat holds back logs near the entrance of a drainage tunnel that acts as a relief valve, keeping Spirit Lake from cresting a dam formed by debris left from the 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption.  
(U.S. Forest Service)

Rebecca Hoffman, the Forest Service monument ranger, said helicopters were not feasible because the construction equipment was too big and the workers would need to travel to and from the lake too frequently.

“We all want research to continue, and it will continue,” Hoffman said. But she added that the act that created the monument also said that nothing would prevent the Forest Service from managing for public safety.

Forest Service managers have watched with concern as rain and snowmelt have raised the level of Spirit Lake during closures of the tunnel for repairs. They plan to use data from drilling the dam to help decide how to build an additional outlet that could be built as a backup to the tunnel.

If the managers [decide to go ahead](#) with the road after reviewing a final round of objections, and if opponents don't sue, construction could begin next year. The multimillion-dollar project would take about two years.

For now, the monument is closed because of the coronavirus crisis. Visitors can drive only as far as highway viewpoints and look across the river below Spirit Lake to the mountain's snowcapped summit.

Mt. St. Helens, viewed from a roadside viewpoint recently, is off-limits to visitors during the 40th anniversary of its eruption, because of the coronavirus outbreak.  
(Richard Read / Los Angeles Times)

Local hotels, restaurants and gift shops selling T-shirts and ash had been gearing up for tens of thousands of visitors for 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary programs and reunions of blast survivors and responders. Instead, the businesses are closed during Washington state's lockdown, and volcanologists, artists, teachers and survivors will appear in [online events](#).

Among those disappointed is Joe Bongiovanni, who owns a gift shop across Spirit Lake Highway from a site where 13 houses were swept away in 1980. Not only is he missing out on memorabilia sales, but he has suspended plans to begin taking customers on expeditions furthering his true passion: Sasquatch research.

He recently restored a Humvee and fitted it with surveillance gear, including dashboard-mounted thermal monitors that he believes could detect ape-like creatures said to inhabit Pacific Northwest forests.

Bongiovanni said that people can choose whether or not to believe in Bigfoot. But when the Cascadia earthquake hits, he said, no one should doubt the need to run for higher ground, given the undeniable specter of Spirit Lake.

“Our personal belongings would no longer exist,” he said. “But what else do you need other than your neck?”

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### ***CORONAVIRUS SET TO CAUSE BIGGEST EMISSIONS FALL SINCE SECOND WORLD WAR***

(Source: The New Scientist) Global carbon emissions are likely to see their steepest fall this year since the second world war, according to researchers who say coronavirus lockdown measures have already cut them by nearly a fifth. But the team warns that the dramatic drop won't slow climate change.

The first peer-reviewed analysis of the pandemic's impact on emissions predicts they will fall between 4.2 and 7.5 per cent on last year. A rise of around 1 per cent had been expected for 2020 before the crisis.

“In terms of a relative drop, you'd have to go back to the first half of the last century, around WWII. Certainly, in modern times, this is an unprecedented drop,” says Glen Peters at the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research in Norway.

Analysing the data up to 7 April, the researchers found that restrictions imposed around the world had cut daily emissions by 17 per cent versus the daily average for 2019. This only takes the world back to 2006 levels, a sign of how much emissions have grown in recent years.

The reductions have been fairly uniform globally, with a drop of 1048 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in the first four months of the year. Peters and his colleagues expect an annual fall of 1524 MtCO<sub>2</sub> if pre-pandemic conditions return by mid-June, or 2729 MtCO<sub>2</sub> if some restrictions are in place until the year's end.

However, the team cautions that the precipitous drop will make little dent in future global warming.

“If emissions go down 5 per cent this year overall, given that climate change is a cumulative problem, it basically makes no difference at all,” says Peters. He calculates that a 5 per cent drop would be equivalent to 0.001°C less warming, a minuscule amount with the [world on course for at least 3°C of warming](#). The UK Met Office [expects](#) a tiny dip in atmospheric CO2 levels this year, but projects that they will still be the highest in at least 2 million years.

A report last year found that emissions [must fall by 7.6 per cent every year this decade](#) to meet the Paris Agreement’s goal of checking warming at 1.5°C. The question of whether governments support green measures or fossil fuel industries with covid-19 recovery packages will be key to determining future emissions. A 1.4 per cent emissions drop in the financial crash of 2009 was wiped out by an above-average increase the following year.

The new study follows [one last week](#), not yet published in a journal, which observed that carbon emissions dropped 58 per cent in London during lockdown, with big falls seen in other European cities too.

Journal reference: *Nature Climate Change*, [DOI: 10.1038/s41558-020-0797-x](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0797-x)

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## ESAA MEMBER NEWS

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### CORONA VIRUS WORKPLACE SURFACE TESTING

If you are reopening your offices and are worried about Corona Virus Contamination, Western Site Technologies can provide surface testing for Corona Virus prior to allowing staff back into the workspace



Call Courtney in Edmonton 780-868-6913 or our main number in Calgary 403-520-0101 for details.

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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))



**Trace Associates Inc.** is an environmental and engineering consulting firm advising all market sectors across Western Canada. Darrell Haight and Rhonda Smith founded Trace in 2006 and have expanded ownership to include over 40 people across all of our offices in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia. Trace is a purpose driven company, and we are in business to help our people and our clients have a great life.

**Why was the company founded?** Darrell and Rhonda founded Trace because we wanted to build something different. We wanted to build a company where people feel like they are genuinely valued and appreciated and like they are a part of something special.

**Unique product or service:** One unique service we’re offering the last few years is sustainability advisory. We are finding more clients are interested in selecting remedial options with lower greenhouse gas emissions and then report those reductions to their executives and stakeholders.

**How does your company give back to the community?** One of the main ways we give back is through our own initiative called the Trace Community Partnership Program. Through this program, each Trace office supports a charitable organization in their community. Support can include hosting paid volunteering events, collecting donation items, raising awareness about their organization, and by donating corporate funds. The programs support a wide variety of causes including numerous food banks, sporting good associations, and animal rescue operations.

For more information about Trace Associates, visit; <https://traceassociates.ca/>

## **UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENTS**

### **BEST 2020: NEW DATES ANNOUNCED**

#### **Bettering Environmental Stewardship & Technology Conference October 21-23, 2020 | Fairmont Chateau Whistler | Whistler, BC**

We are pleased to confirm that the BEST 2020 has been rescheduled for **October 21 – 23** at the original location, the Fairmont Chateau Whistler. Details on the event along with a link to registration can be found at: <http://bceia.com/best/>.

The hotel is setting up a new guest room reservation link and it will be posted on the website as soon as it is received.

We are currently canvassing BEST 2020 presenters to confirm their participation in October and will update the program accordingly. We truly hope you will be able to join us on the new dates!

#### **Registration & Program**

## **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.

<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Details</b>
Intermediate/Senior Vegetation Ecologist	Trace Associates Inc.	2020-06-27	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Reclamation Specialists	EARTHMASTER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES INC	2020-06-13	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Intermediate/Senior Vegetation Ecologist	Trace Associates Inc.	2020-06-30	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>
Department Manager I	Element Materials Technology	2020-03-16	Full-Time	<a href="#">more</a>