

Weekly NEWS

esaa Environmental Services Association of Alberta

An Information Service for Alberta's Environment Industry

The Week Ending May 29th, 2020

**STAYS SAFE
AND STAY
POSITIVE**

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Comments & submissions are welcome!

Please submit your announcement via e-mail to:
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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/. 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!

New Information:

- Abstracts Now available via the Agenda page
- 14 hours of potential professional development
- Can't make all of the presentations. Don't worry - you can come and go out of the presentations as needed.
- Missed a presentation. All of the presentations will be recorded and available to registered participants only.

Registration rates: (includes all seven webinars)

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

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Virtual Event Sponsors



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!

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



Upcoming Webinar Schedule
(updated May 27th, 2020)

Title	Date	Registration Link	Sponsored by:
Disruptive Energy Transition Kae Shummoogum, Gasonic	Wednesday, June 3rd 11 am – 12 pm	Register Now	
NEW – New World of Work Sharon Kolodychuk, Salopek & Associates	Monday, June 8th 11 am – 12 pm	Register Now	Available
Effective In-Situ LNAPL and DNAPL Site Remediation Using Innovative Surfactant Enhanced Remediation Techniques George (Bud) Ivey, Ivey International	Wednesday, June 10th 11 am – 12 pm	Register Now	
NEW – Virtual EnviroTech 2020 27 presentations, 7 webinars, 13 hours of Professional Development AGENDA	Thursday & Friday, June 11th and 12th Various Times	Register Now	
How To Manage Remote Work Effectively and Reduce Cost During Critical Times Vincent Lam and Sean Huang, Matidor	Wednesday, June 17th 11 am – 12 pm	Register Now	
NEW – Alberta Birds with Brian and Joe Brian Keating and Joe Chowaniec	Thursday, June 25th 1 pm – 2 pm	Register Now	Available

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://www.treetimeservices.ca/ASRP)



ACT HOLDS AER ACCOUNTABLE FOR TIMELY APPLICATION REVIEWS

Government is further acting on its election commitment to Albertans to ensure the province's regulatory system is the most effective and efficient in North America.

Bill 7, the Responsible Energy Development Amendment Act, directly addresses concerns about unnecessary delays – as a result of needless red tape and ineffective processes – in the Alberta Energy Regulator's (AER) assessment of resource project applications. The regulator's obligation to fully consider social and economic effects and the effects of an activity on the environment and landowners is unchanged. The legislation provides government with the backstop authority to establish maximum timelines for the AER to review applications if the regulator fails to do so. This will enhance predictability in all aspects of the review process – for industry and all Albertans.

Bill 7 builds on other recent actions to improve the performance of the AER, including the appointment of a new board and new chief executive officer. While government is encouraged AER's new leadership team continues to take steps to address existing concerns around unnecessary processes and delays, this legislation provides Albertans further assurance regulatory certainty and predictability will no longer be compromised.

"We've heard, loudly and clearly, a regulatory system that provides certainty is the key driver to ensure needed capital investment flows into the province. We're not asking the regulator to say yes or no to any project, but rather to ensure delays and uncertainty do not dissuade projects – that will help put Albertans to work – from being brought forward for review. Since being elected, we have taken a series of steps to strengthen and modernize the AER, helping to set a course for economic recovery by increasing investor confidence in Alberta's energy sector." - *Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy*

“We made a commitment to Albertans that we would review and restructure the AER in order to ensure we are able to create certainty for the province’s job creators while maintaining our commitment to excellence in terms of environmental outcomes. This legislation will harmonize government and AER policies, allowing the regulator to approve or reject projects more quickly using its already stringent standards.” - *Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks*

“The Canadian Energy Pipeline Association welcomes the Government of Alberta’s commitment to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of energy project application reviews. For Alberta to remain competitive, regulatory certainty and predictability are critical, especially as our province emerges from a period of prolonged economic uncertainty. We commend the government on its support for the energy sector, while ensuring our resources are produced and transported using world-leading safety and environmental standards.” - *Chris Bloomer, president and CEO, Canadian Energy Pipeline Association*

“PSAC appreciates the efforts of the Alberta government to restore investor confidence and operator efficiency in our energy sector by ensuring timely decision-making and reducing red tape for projects. Providing predictably for industry and certainty to attract capital investment for the responsible development of our natural resources will lead to jobs for the oilfield services sector that PSAC represents and benefits to all Albertans.” - *Elizabeth Aquin, interim president and CEO, Petroleum Services Association of Canada*

Government has also directed the regulator to establish a red tape reduction task force to identify unnecessary regulator processes.

Government continues to work with the AER to address long-standing liability and environmental concerns, such as strengthening the role of the Orphan Well Association, and developing a new suite of policies – to be announced in the near future – to ensure industry can cover the cost of cleaning up oil and gas wells and sites in a manageable way.

Quick facts

- On Sept. 6, the Government of Alberta initiated a review of the Alberta Energy Regulator and appointed an interim board of directors.
- The interim board of directors, consisting of public servants and individuals with oil and gas expertise:
 - Provided direction on restructuring.
 - Reviewed the industry levy that funds the AER.
 - Increased clarity regarding the AER’s role in providing proper oversight.
- On April 1, government announced the appointment of a new AER board of directors.
- On March 26, the AER appointed a permanent CEO.

GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN LAUNCHES NEW INACTIVE WELL PROGRAM

The Government of Saskatchewan is launching the Accelerated Site Closure Program (ASCP) for the abandonment and reclamation of inactive oil and gas wells and facilities to get Saskatchewan people back to work.

ASCP will access up to \$400 million, over two years, subject to the conclusion of an agreement with Canada, through the federal COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. It will be overseen by the Ministry of Energy and Resources and delivered in partnership with the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC), which has technical expertise to provide engineering and oversight work. The program will prioritize Saskatchewan-based service companies and support some 2,100 full-time equivalent jobs. Up to 8,000 inactive wells and facilities will be abandoned



Accelerated Site Closure Program

- » Supporting **2,100 full-time equivalent jobs** in the oil and gas service industry
- » Reclamation and abandonment of up to **8,000 inactive wells**

Saskatchewan 

and reclaimed over the life of the program.

“We have worked hard to develop a common sense, administratively simple program that creates much-needed jobs in the struggling oil and gas sector,” Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre said. “The ASCP will accelerate the retirement of wells and facilities, which have reached the end of their life cycle, and complete a substantial amount of environmentally important work in a short period of time. For that, we would like to acknowledge the support of the federal government.”

The ASCP will be rolled out in several phases, with the funding component of the program administered by the SRC. Phase 1 will allocate up to \$100 million in funding to Saskatchewan service companies contracted to do abandonment and reclamation work.

“Working with Minister Eyre and the Government of Saskatchewan, we are creating needed jobs, cleaning up our environment, and supporting the hardworking people in our oil and gas sector,” Canada’s Minister of Natural Resources Seamus O’Regan said.

Under the ASCP, eligible licensees (operators) will use the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS) to nominate inactive wells and facilities into the program. Each licensee will be assigned a portion of planned expenditures, based on their share of total provincial liabilities for inactive wells and facilities. Based on these nominations, the SRC will procure services from eligible service companies. All contracting for services will take place exclusively between eligible licensees and service companies. The SRC will provide direct funding, including an initial advance, to service companies for abandonment and reclamation work.

“We’d like to thank the Saskatchewan government for working to implement the ASCP in a timely manner,” Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors President and CEO Mark Scholz said. “We are excited by the prospect of long-term jobs for Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors members who have been struggling to keep their employees working and their businesses viable.”

“Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers appreciates the Government of Saskatchewan’s efforts to design an Accelerated Site Closure Program that will help get Saskatchewan people back to work by focusing efforts on closure of inactive oil and natural gas sites,” Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers Vice-President, Western Canada Operations Brad Herald said. “The initial phase of the program recognizes principles important to the sector including the efficient management of liability closure, while offering fair access to funds. We continue to support Saskatchewan’s pragmatic approach to the program design while achieving government’s objectives.”

“Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) welcomes today’s announcement that will support urgently needed jobs for the oilfield services sector that PSAC represents during this unprecedented downturn,” PSAC Interim President and CEO Elizabeth Aquin said. “We are pleased that this funding aligns with PSAC’s advocacy for a mechanism to close inactive wells and that the Government of Saskatchewan has supported this win-win solution that creates jobs while also providing environmental benefits. This program will also help to retain and expand key skills and expertise for Canada’s responsible resource development and stewardship of the land.”

For further information about ASCP, companies can contact the Ministry of Energy and Resources Service Desk at 1-855-219-9373, or ER.servicedesk@gov.sk.ca, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/Business/Agriculture-Natural-Resources-and-Industry/Oil-and-Gas/Accelerated-Site-Closure-Program or <https://src.nu/wells>.

B.C. DORMANT WELL CLEAN-UP PROGRAM SEES SURGE IN APPLICATIONS

(Source: DCN-JOC News Services) FORT ST. JOHN, B.C. — A new British Columbia government program to restore dormant and inactive wells is seeing significant interest. The first application to the Dormant Sites Reclamation program was received within 15 minutes of opening on May 25 and by the end of the day 1,100 applications from more than 80 service companies were received, a government release stated.

“The applications we have received in a single day propose upwards of \$152 million worth of reclamation work, which, if completed, will reclaim over 2,400 inactive wells. The extraordinary interest in the program is great news as we work to get our economy moving again and help clean up the environment,” said B.C. Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Bruce Ralston in a statement.

The program could support up to 1,200 jobs for British Columbians predominantly in the northeast region of the province, the release stated.

On April 17 the Government of Canada announced \$120 million in funding for B.C. to support cleanup of oil and gas sites and the Province of B.C. rolled out three new programs on May 19 to bring the funding to the provincial oil and gas industry.

The \$100 million in funding allocated to the Dormant Sites Reclamation program will provide successful applicants with up to \$100,000, or 50 per cent of total costs, whichever comes to less, to clean up dormant sites. The program is split into two phases of \$50 million each and applications for the second half open on Nov. 1, 2020.

The remaining \$20 million will go to the B.C. Oil and Gas Commission's Orphan Sites Supplemental Reclamation program (\$15 million) and the Legacy Sites Reclamation program (\$5 million.)

These programs are open to oil and gas field service companies and contractors based in B.C., with registration, office and operations in the province as well, the release stated. More information can be found at the B.C. government's [Dormant Sites Reclamation program](#) site.



INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND RECLAMATION

The Indigenous Environmental Stewardship and Reclamation program (IESR) prepares students for the demanding and evolving field of environmental safeguarding, reclamation, and restoration. This program will provide students with a background in theory and practice, including laboratory work and field experiences. Learning from academics, Elders, industry and community experts, students will learn how environmental science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) are vital in balancing traditional values and the needs of industry and communities in the continued development of resources.

For more info about this program visit: ytced.ca



NEW CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM SITE CONTAMINATED BY CANCER-CAUSING CHEMICAL

(Source: KawarthaNow) A major wrench has just been thrown into the plans to build a new Canadian Canoe Museum beside the Peterborough Lift Lock.

On Thursday (May 28), the museum announced that its own independent investigations have confirmed the designated site for the museum's future building contains the chemical compound trichloroethylene (TCE).

A clear non-flammable liquid with a sweet smell, TCE was commonly used as an industrial solvent in the past. It is classified as a human carcinogen and a non-carcinogenic health hazard. Groundwater and drinking water contamination from industrial discharge of trichloroethylene is a major concern for human health and has resulted in numerous public health incidents and lawsuits in the U.S.

“All of us at the Canoe Museum, our project partners, and supporters are highly concerned and extremely disappointed by the situation,” says the museum’s executive director Carolyn Hyslop.

The ground water at 353 Hunter Street East, owned by Parks Canada, is believed to have been contaminated by chemicals seeping from an adjacent property. The museum has not identified the property owner.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has issued a provincial officers order under the Environmental Protection Act to the property’s owner, directing it to undertake air quality, ground water, and additional onsite investigations and to provide associating remediation plans.

We are working with all parties including the Ministry, Parks Canada, and our community and funding partners to evaluate the overall impacts of these findings to our operations and our new museum build. “We are working with all parties including the Ministry, Parks Canada, and our community and funding partners to evaluate the overall impacts of these findings to our operations and our new museum build,” Hyslop says.

Ironically, the existing site of the Canadian Canoe Museum at 910 Monaghan Road (which has remained closed during the COVID-19 pandemic) was the former location of the Outboard Marine Corporation of Canada. The company, which operated from 1913 to 1990, manufactured outboard motors and related marine products, as well as other small engines, and used TCE in its manufacturing process. As was the practice at the time, the company occasionally discharged waste onto the ground — waste that included TCE.

Ground-breaking for the museum’s new facility, to be located alongside the Peterborough Lift Lock on the Trent-Severn Waterway, was originally scheduled to begin this year. The 83,400 square-foot facility was designed by the award-winning Irish team of heneghan peng and Toronto’s Kearns Mancini Architects.

“While the full implications of this environmental interruption are not yet fully known, we are fully committed to building a new world-class museum that will deliver on its vision and serve the needs of its patrons and local community while honouring and preserving this unique cultural asset of national significance,” Hyslop says.

NEW ESAA MEMBER

ESAA’s Board of Directors and staff would like to welcome the following new members:

Full Member:



Arkit

Unit 104 - 8898 Heather Street

Vancouver, BC V6P 3S8

Phone: (604) 428-9978

Web: www.arkit.io

Christopher Kam, COO

e-mail: chris@arkit.io

Arkit is the site-management platform that has helped companies like Summit Earth, ARC Resources, and Earthmaster Environmental keep track of their remediation, reclamation and construction worksites. We understand that each of our clients has a unique workflow, so we tailor our platform to meet the needs of each individual user and organization through a collaborative on-boarding process. The problem we see most often from our clients boils down to site data that gets scattered in too many places; GIS software, emails, spreadsheets, and other databases. This means it's often impossible to open one window and get a complete picture. Even simple reports can require information from 4 apps and 3 spreadsheets and finding something that was delivered via email. If this is a problem you've faced too, we'd love to show

you what we've built. To schedule a tour, visit us online at www.arkit.io Arkit is an inexpensive way to consolidate everything so you can manage and report on work fast, without racking up unbillable hours to provide transparency. It's easier to show you though; take an online tour so you can assess for yourself. We look forward to hearing from you.

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.

Job Title	Organization	Application Deadline	Term	Details
Reclamation Specialists	EARTHMASTER ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES INC	2020-06-13	Full-Time	more
Intermediate/Senior Vegetation Ecologist	Trace Associates Inc.	2020-06-30	Full-Time	more
Intermediate Environmental Consultant	North Shore Environmental Consultants Inc.	2020-06-30	Full-Time	more
Junior Environmental Consultant	North Shore Environmental Consultants Inc.	2020-06-30	Full-Time	more
Intermediate Report Reviewer	North Shore Environmental Consultants Inc.	2020-06-30	Full-Time	more
Department Manager I	Element Materials Technology	2020-03-16	Full-Time	more

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