



Virtual RemTech 2020 ***Video Recordings and Presentation PDFs Available***

The **presentation PDFs** from *Virtual RemTech 2020* are now available at: <https://www.esaa.org/remtech/about-remtech/proceedings/2020-2/> free of charge.

If you were unable to attend *Virtual RemTech 2020*, the video recordings are now available for purchase. The recordings of all of the sessions are available for a nominal charge. Fee includes access to the recordings of all 60+ presentations divided into 20 recordings.

- \$99 for Members
- \$119 for Non-Members

Purchase Recordings

Alberta town on the verge of collapse due to aging oil wells

(Source: CTV & W5) CALMAR, ALTA. -- A small Alberta town that once prospered thanks to the oil industry is now edging ever closer to collapsing because of it.

Old oil well sites drilled in the 1960s and 70s surround Calmar, Alta., which is located about 50 kilometres southwest of Edmonton. All of the drilling equipment and infrastructure is gone and all that remains are open pits filled with potentially contaminated soil.

Because of this, none of that land can be developed.

"Companies came, they drilled, they made millions of dollars and then they left," states Michelle Levasseur, the town's economic development officer. "If I'm unable to help this community grow by creating jobs and development, then our community essentially could die."

One parcel of land the town would like to develop includes 130 acres of prime real estate located right off the main highway and backs onto a rail line. The property can accommodate modern industry, which could employ hundreds. About 2,200 people call Calmar home.

The property has been vacant for decades because the level of contamination is unknown. It's a gamble that developers are not willing to take because cleaning up the soil could cost millions.

"According to the provincial and federal rules, our sites are not clean to today's standards," says Levasseur.

Most of the well sites in Calmar are called "legacy sites." This refers to a company doing some type of site remediation, but only cleaning up the land to the standard of the time it was completed.

What this means for the community is that the sites are not up to modern day environmental standards and therefore are presumed to be contaminated. The extent of the contamination is unknown because the cost of testing is simply too expensive for the town to undertake.

"So when you do an environmental assessment, there's two processes. A phase one and phase two. These range anywhere from \$20,000 to \$100,000," explains Levasseur.

It would amount to a one per cent tax increase for Calmar residents to test just one site. The town would need to test dozens of sites and that is simply to understand the level of contamination left behind.

It's a financial burden Levaseur says "is not fiscally responsible for our council or our administration to ask our current residents to fund the sins of the father."

The financial burden does not end there. The final cost for cleaning up the wells could skyrocket depending on the assessment's findings, costing the town or potential developers million of dollars.

Full story and video at: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/w5/alberta-town-on-the-verge-of-collapse-due-to-aging-oil-wells-1.5176709?cache=>

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AER: Wainwright Field Centre Closure

As part of our efforts to reduce costs, we will not be renewing the lease on the building that houses our Wainwright Field Centre when it expires on December 31, 2020.

As of November 1, Wainwright staff are providing regulatory oversight for the region through remote working. This includes support for incident response, inspections and audits, and regional engagement.

Inquires previously [directed](#) to our Wainwright Field Centre can be directed to our Bonnyville Field Centre at Bonnyville.FieldCentre@aer.ca or 780-826-5352. Emergencies and operational complaints can be directed to our 24-hour response line at 1-800-222-6514.

B.C.'s response on establishing a selenium-level objective for Lake Koochanusa

British Columbia has participated with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to establish a selenium-level objective for Lake Koochanusa, which straddles the border of B.C. and Montana.

On the basis of this work, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality has released a proposed selenium-level objective for Lake Koochanusa. British Columbia has not yet selected a proposed water-quality objective for selenium. B.C. is committed to a science-based process informed by the best data available.

A selenium-level target will only be established once B.C. is fully confident that the process has met this high standard and after seeking consensus with the Ktunaxa Nation Council on a recommended standard for selenium for this transboundary waterbody.

CNL marks Port Hope remediation milestone

(Source: DCN-JOC News Services) CLARINGTON, ONT.—Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) recently announced it has completed the excavation and transfer of legacy radioactive waste away from the Lake Ontario shoreline in southeast Clarington, Ont.

The placement of the last truckloads of waste in an aboveground mound at the new long-term waste management facility, located about 700 metres north of the shoreline site, marks a milestone for the Port Granby Project and the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI), stated a release. CNL is implementing the PHAI on behalf of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, a federal Crown corporation.

The soil was contaminated from the radium and uranium refining and processing operations of the former Crown corporation Eldorado Nuclear and its private sector predecessors, which operated from the 1930s to 1988.

Remediation of the legacy waste management site began in 2016 and was undertaken in stages, with each section of the site undergoing a testing process to confirm that all contaminated material had been removed. Verified areas were then backfilled with clean soil and restored by hydroseeding and planting vegetation. As the cleanup neared completion, internal roads and other infrastructure were removed.

Capping and closing of the engineered storage mound at the new facility is underway and expected to be completed in summer 2021, with final landscaping targeted for summer 2022. Monitoring systems are being installed within the mound and around the perimeter of the new facility to ensure the integrity of the facility.

“The safe and successful completion of this remediation is the culmination of years of hard work and planning carried out by CNL’s Port Hope Area Initiative team, and fulfills a key commitment by the Government of Canada to restore these lands for the local community,” said Joe McBrearty, CNL president and CEO, in a statement. “This milestone represents continued progress in one of the largest and most complex environmental clean-up missions ever undertaken in Canada.”

New National Air Regulations to Reduce Petrochemical Pollution

(Source: EnvironmentJournal.ca) The Government of Canada has finalized national regulations that will reduce pollution from petroleum and petrochemical facilities across the country, including in Sarnia, Mississauga, Montréal, Burnaby, Prince George, Saint John, and many communities in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

“The pandemic has reminded us how important access to nature and fresh air is to our everyday life and well-being,” said Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Jonathan Wilkinson. “Our government is proud to be working directly with

cities, Indigenous communities, industries, and all Canadians on solutions to protect our air quality. These new regulations will contribute to the health of Canadians while ensuring the prosperity of our economy and protecting jobs today.”

Harmful airborne substances — known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) —emitted from these facilities contribute to premature deaths and more frequent and severe asthma symptoms, and they force workers and nearby residents to interrupt their daily activities.

The federal government worked with industry to provide many compliance options to minimize costs. As a result, industries can find the most effective ways to reduce their pollution. Many of the new requirements to reduce air pollution are already in place for similar facilities in the US. These measures support competitiveness as the petroleum and petrochemical sectors begin to recover from the economic downturn and low energy prices.

The regulations also support clean growth in Canada’s energy sector and complement the commitment to meet and exceed the country’s 2030 emissions-reduction target and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Copies of the final regulations are available in the *Canada Gazette*, Part II.

The regulations are expected to lead to \$192 million in health benefits from 2021 to 2037. Health benefits include an estimated 34 fewer premature deaths; almost 6,900 fewer days without asthma symptoms; and over 33,600 fewer days of restricted activity.

Furthermore, by inspecting and repairing leaks, the oil and gas industry will avoid losing valuable fuel products, which are also released with VOC emissions. Stopping the leaks will generate revenue of around \$49 million for the oil and gas industry, between 2021 and 2037.

Canada’s carbon-pollution pricing system and the Clean Fuel Standard (in development) include emissions-credit-trading systems that will also help to drive down greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas facilities. For further information on these regulations, click [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming ESAA Webinar

Reducing Cost and Risk Associated with Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment

11 am - 12pm, November 25th, 2020

[*Register Now*](#)

The federal/provincial Site Rehabilitation Program (SRP) forms a strategic plank in the Federal/Provincial economic recovery platform that puts western Canadian service companies back to work. Alberta Energy via the Industry Advisor Committee has several stakeholders, including ESAA, advising how the SRP can achieve economic and environmental objectives while putting service companies back to work.

Maximizing the value to taxpayers, customers, ESAA members, service providers and shareholders requires a strategy that addresses the entire life cycle of well closure and abandonment. West Earth Sciences will share their hands-on experience with hundreds of Phase 1 ESA’s; abandonments, cleanups and closures beginning with income trusts of the 1990’s and culminating in the SRP requirements today.

West Earth Sciences will summarize Phase 1 ESA regulatory requirements, how the Phase I’s establish the foundation for subsequent stages (including Phase 2 detailed site investigations) and lessons-learned from how the right Phase 1 ESA minimizes surprises, reduces risk and ultimately reduces the cost associated with successful site closure.

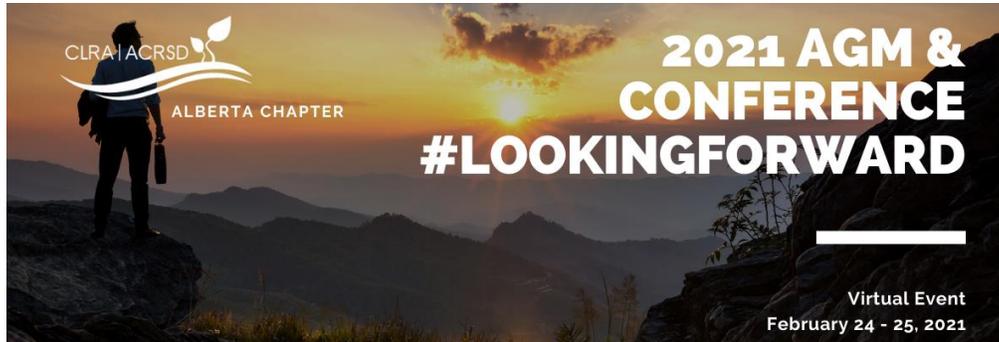
Presenters:

- Mr. Bill Berzins: Mr. Berzins has managed site assessment, remediation and reclamation activities hundred of sites over an 40-year career.

- Mr. Sam Ogali: Mr. Ogali has more than 17 years experience in site cleanup and closure across BC and Alberta across several hundred sites. .

Registration is free!

[Register Now](#)



2021 AGM & Conference - Call for Abstracts

February 24 - 25, 2021

More information regarding registration and sponsorship opportunities will be available shortly. The Alberta Chapter of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association (CLRA) will be hosting its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference virtually on Wednesday, February 24, and Thursday, February 25, 2021.

The conference consists of:

- Two half-days of presentations
- Networking opportunities
- CLRA Alberta Annual General Meeting

Details: <https://clra.member365.com/public/event/details/f2bea45c7770f12ed2b647483f30fae331b59ee3/1>

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
Data Entry/ Remediation Technician	Trium Environmental Inc.	2020-11-13	Contract	<u>more</u>
Intermediate Environmental Scientist - Field	360 Energy Liability Management	2020-11-30	Full-Time	<u>more</u>
VP Environmental, Alberta	H3M Environmental Ltd.	2020-11-30	Full-Time	<u>more</u>
Project Manager	H3M Environmental Ltd.	2020-11-30	Full-Time	<u>more</u>