



GEOLOGIST

About the Orphan Well Association

The Orphan Well Association (OWA) is an industry-funded, independent non-profit organization that operates under the delegated legal authority of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER). Our job is to close oil or gas wells, facilities (such as gas plants), pipelines and associated sites in Alberta that the AER has designated as orphans because they do not have a financially viable or legally responsible owner.

Since beginning operations in 2002, we have decommissioned more than 8,300 wells and received over 3,400 reclamation certificates. We are currently monitoring vegetation on over 3,800 sites where we have completed our reclamation work. This work has allowed municipalities, farmers, ranchers and recreational users to reconnect with what the landscape has to offer.

About the Role

The Geologist is a key member of the Well Decommissioning team, providing critical geological expertise to the technical team to support well decommissioning operations. The Well Decommissioning team is responsible for all well abandonment operations, including zonal abandonments, porous isolations and complex surface casing vent flow repairs.

The position is based in Calgary and will report to the Well Decommissioning Team Lead. The successful candidate will be a detail-oriented problem-solver, capable of working independently and able to manage high activity levels when required. This position will suit a seasoned professional who thrives in a dynamic environment.

Key Responsibilities

- Develop and document geological recommendations for isolating porous zones and protected intervals in compliance with AER Directive 020
- Conduct detailed geological assessment of open hole logs to support surface casing vent flow repairs, including urgent reviews as needed
- Prepare geologic reviews of isolation recommendations and create open hole log PDFs annotated with isolation recommendations for orphan wells
- Provide forensic geological reviews for historic legacy wells, identify potential zones of risk for sour gas/oil/water and build possible downhole stratigraphy in un-logged well bores, referencing well history, regional geology and published articles on-line related to sites
- Provide geologic support for non routine applications and identify waiver potential
- Assist with reviews and prioritization of new orphans, including well file and inspection reviews
- Collaborate with the decommissioning and environmental teams to resolve operational issues
- Liaise with AER geology and hydrogeology on abandonment requirements when needed
- Prepare weekly, monthly and quarterly reporting as required
- Attend and contribute to team and technical meetings on request
- Review upcoming orphan assets for potential value in sending to receivership as requested
- Keep current with AER Directive 020 changes
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications

- Post-secondary education (e.g., BSc. or B.Applied Sc.) is required
- Membership in APEGA is required

Experience Required

- Minimum 15 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, preferably with experience in abandonment or completion operations
- Expertise in clastic and carbonate conventional and unconventional reservoirs is preferred
- Geological evaluations in a variety of fields in Alberta is required
- Knowledgeable about AER requirements for geological evaluations and technical risk assessments
- Ability to read open hole logs (identifying groundwater protection zones and potential leak sources), ability to review cased hole logs is an asset
- Proficiency in Accumap, Microsoft Office Suite, Siteview and GIS based software

Key Skills and Knowledge

- Excellent written and verbal communication, decision-making and problem solving skills
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work collaboratively with others
- Innovative, analytical and critical thinker with excellent organizational abilities who is able to set and deliver on priorities.
- Able to work with minimal supervision.
- Highly motivated with proven ability to manage multiple high priority assignments simultaneously.
- Able to work with field contractors, and communicate expectations clearly verbally and in writing
- Able to identify gaps in processes and willing to step in to help address them

Please send your cover letter and resume in confidence to HR@orphanwell.ca by 5:00 p.m., January 30, 2026, including "Geologist" in the subject line. We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.