



PRESS RELEASE

The Action Surface Rights Association is pleased that the NDP government has announced that it will leverage the \$30 million in Federal funding for Orphan Well Cleanup into a \$235 million loan to the Orphan Well Association, which will be paid back over 10 years from an increased Orphan Well levy. The Action Surface Rights Association has lobbied past governments to responsibly address the legacy orphan well issue in the province and is happy to see the current government take a pro-active and innovative approach which will employ many Albertans and take advantage of the current lower contractor cost environment to resolve the issue in a fiscally prudent manner. Reclamation of these Orphan wells will benefit landowners through timely cleanup of contamination, removal of obstructions to farming operations and improved food safety of crops and animals.

We have encouraged past governments to break the boom/bust cycle of Energy development by increasing reclamation efforts during downturns and support Industry's commitment to pay an increased Orphan Well Levy to deal with the increasing backlog of Orphan Wells. We commend the current government's concern for the environment and its responsible job-creation program which will continue to ensure that taxpayers are protected as Industry is required to fund reclamation through a Polluter Pay model.

We also thank the Alberta Energy Regulator for involving us in its ongoing License Management Rating review sessions which will allow the province to develop new policies to prevent the Orphan Well issue from growing to unsustainable levels in the future by introducing fiscally prudent and efficient measures to resolve the problem.

We also support the AER's request for leave to appeal the *Redwater* Court of Appeal decision to the Supreme Court and will seek to obtain intervenor status in those hearings with the goal of ensuring that taxpayers are not burdened with Industry liabilities.

**Submitted on behalf of the members of the Action Surface Rights Association by,
It's Directors.**