

Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX

From: Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX
Sent: December 18, 2018 3:00 PM
To: 'lsciarpelletti@globeandmail.com'
Subject: Information from the Ministry of Agriculture

Sorry for the just before 3pm arriving of this Laura, but I hope it helps with your story. I've broken it into parts, the first offering some context from the Ministry about local government decisions, and the second a quote from Minister Popham on the changes.

On background from the Ministry of Agriculture:

While Government has introduced a new cap on house size on the Agricultural Land Reserve, local governments remain able to set lower maximum house sizes in their respective jurisdictions. Those decisions are up to local governments and are made independently of the province.

Statement from B.C. Agriculture Minister Lana Popham

"Over the last 15 years pressures on farmland have continued to grow, allowing big developers who aren't farming to drive the cost of land out of reach for farmers, and allowing valuable farmland to be damaged. Our government has passed legislation to protect farmland, while ensuring that all farming families who need the extra space to farm have a path forward to build a larger home to support their farming operations. We want to ensure that farmers can get onto the land and bring it into production, and that people in B.C. can count on fresh, local food on their tables for years to come."

Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX

From: Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX
Sent: December 6, 2018 1:59 PM
To: 'Stueck, Wendy'; Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: orphan wells in ALR

Hi Wendy, I wasn't able to arrange for an interview today as Minister Popham is out of the province, but I hope the below statement from her provides some helpful information for the story.

Statement from Agriculture Minister Lana Popham:

"I do have concerns with inactive wells and I know the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources shares my concerns on this matter.

"Orphan wells within the ALR isn't something that happened overnight. It's a situation the previous government ignored and allowed to grow. Our government recognized the need to address this, so we've taken action to better protect our farmland and the people who depend on that land.

"Earlier this year, our government passed Bill 15, amendments to the Oil and Gas Activities Act, to address the growing number of inactive and orphaned well sites. Those amendments provide the Oil and Gas Commission with additional tools to protect the environment and improve funding for orphan site restoration, by replacing the current tax structure with a levy to be paid into B.C.'s Orphan Site Restoration Fund (OSRF) an industry-funded program that addresses the cost of restoration and environmental clean-up.

"While less than two per cent of the Agricultural Land Reserve in the Northeast is occupied by oil and gas activities, our government recognizes the importance of protecting this land for future agricultural use.

"We are monitoring this situation and, if needed, our government will take additional steps to ensure orphan wells are addressed."

From: Stueck, Wendy [mailto:WStueck@globeandmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 5, 2018 11:29 AM
To: Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX; Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX
Subject: orphan wells in ALR

Robert, Dave – hello.

A couple of weeks back, when I was looking into Richmond ALR land and Bill 52 (that story hasn't run yet, but still in works) – I was reading the interim report to the minister and wanted to learn more about wells on ALR land.

I sent an inquiry to the OGC and received the note below.

As you can see – nearly half of the orphan wells identified by the OGC are within the ALR.

The interim report (page 23) – covers off reasons why oil and gas is such a significant concern.

Would Minister Popham be available to chat specifically about these issues, and what, if anything, the government might do about them?

Specifically:

- Was the minister aware that half of orphan wells identified by OGC are in the ALR?

- Is the minister considering any changes that would address the industry's shift to multi-pad well sites and the resulting impact on the land base?
- Given the low number of wells that the OGC deems as restored (16 out of more than 300), is that satisfactory and if not, what can be done about it?

Thanks.

My deadline for this is 2 pm PST tomorrow – Thursday Dec 6th.

From: Parfitt, Lannea
Sent: Friday, November 23, 2018 8:57 AM
To: Stueck, Wendy
Subject: RE: follow-up media request

Hi Wendy,

Below are answers to your questions—and some additional background:

- Number of orphan sites, per year, for the past decade (2009 to year-to-date 2018)

See table below – for the last five years

- Spending on orphan treatment over same time period, annually

Annual Orphan Site Reclamation Fund (OSRF) spending – from annual reports posted on website

- o 2017/18 \$5.7 million (annual report not yet posted)
- o 2016/17 \$643,000 <https://bcogc.ca/node/14849/download>
- o 2015/16 \$1.2 million <https://bcogc.ca/node/14040/download>
- o 2014/15 \$1.3 million <https://bcogc.ca/node/12939/download>
- o 2013/14 \$2.8 million <https://bcogc.ca/node/11647/download>

- Geographical breakdown of the sites

- o Maps of orphan sites can be referenced on the Commission's website.
<https://bcogc.ca/public-zone/orphan-site-management>

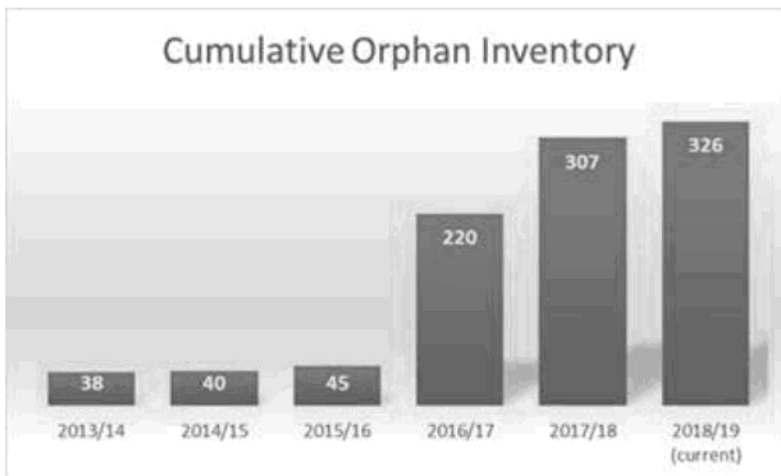
- Identification of sites that are within the ALR

- Of the current 310 unrestored orphan sites, 145 fall within the ALR.
- It should be noted that less than two per cent of the Agricultural Land Reserve in the Northeast is occupied by oil and gas activities. Before proceeding, these activities are subject to review against the criteria established by the Agricultural Land Commission in the delegation agreement they negotiated with the Commission.

Background:

- If a permit holder in B.C. becomes insolvent or cannot be located, the Commission may designate its wells, facilities, and pipelines as orphan sites.
- Once sites have been designated as orphans, the Commission may use the Orphan Site Reclamation Fund (OSRF) to decommission and restore the sites. Before the Commissioner declares an orphan site, every possibility is exhausted to ensure those responsible, even in bankruptcy, are held financially accountable and there's no direct cost to British Columbians.
- The BC Oil & Gas Commission saw the number of orphans increase from 45 in 2015/16 to 326 in Nov. 2018, due primarily to the insolvencies of Terra Energy and Quattro. This May, the provincial government took action to address the growing number of orphaned well sites by passing [Bill 15](#), amendments to the Oil and Gas Activities Act (OGAA). Those amendments provide the Commission with additional tools to protect the environment and improve funding for orphan site restoration, by replacing the current tax structure with a levy to be paid into B.C.'s OSRF—an industry-funded program that addresses the cost of restoration and environmental clean-up.

- In B.C., we have nearly 25,000 oil and gas wells, of which less than 1.5 per cent are considered orphan sites.
- The Commission has also been implementing a significantly accelerated plan to address orphans, including:
 - Spending on orphan treatment has tripled to almost \$15 million in 2018/19.
 - Engaging with industry and supported by recent Oil and Gas Activities Act (OGAA) amendments (Bill 15), to ensure the industry-funded OSRF can sufficiently address the costs associated with timely orphan site treatment.
 - Policy and work plan for orphan treatment maintains protection of public safety and the environment as the top priority, while accelerating restoration timeframes.
 - Partnering with First Nations on restoration work to develop ecologically and culturally appropriate reclamation plans.
 - Enhanced engagement with private landowners to provide compensation for missed rental payments, address concerns and identify suitable future land uses.
 - Establishing an Orphan Technical Committee involving the Commission and industry, geared at finding synergies and efficiencies in well abandonment and restoration programs.



- Currently, there have been 16 sites restored, and there will be 20 by March 2019. Completion of restoration follows extensive decommissioning, investigation/remediation, reclamation, and monitoring work.

Cheers,
Lansea



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From: Stueck, Wendy <WStueck@globeandmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 15, 2018 1:05 PM

To: Parfitt, Lannea <Lannea.Parfitt@BCOGC.ca>

Subject: RE: follow-up media request

Thanks – please keep me posted.

If it's possible to get information early next week, that would be great.

From: Parfitt, Lannea [<mailto:Lannea.Parfitt@BCOGC.ca>]

Sent: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 10:09 AM

To: Stueck, Wendy <WStueck@globeandmail.com>

Subject: RE: follow-up media request

Hi Wendy,

I'll reach out to our Liability Management folks to see what we're able to provide.

Cheers,
Lannea



Lannea Parfitt

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From: Stueck, Wendy <WStueck@globeandmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2018 5:16 PM

To: Parfitt, Lannea <Lannea.Parfitt@BCOGC.ca>

Subject: follow-up media request

Lannea,

Hello and thanks for chatting with me this afternoon.

As discussed – following up on September 20, 2018 bulletin re Orphan site restoration. I'm interested in the following:

- Number of orphan sites, per year, for the past decade (2009 to year-to-date 2018)
- Spending on orphan treatment over same time period, annually
- Geographical breakdown of the sites
- Identification of sites that are within the ALR

Thank you. Would it be possible to get this information sometime next week, ie by 5 pm Pacific time Friday November 23 or sooner? In excel, so we could map and chart it? As discussed – I could cut the time frame to five years.



Wendy Stueck | National Correspondent | Editorial

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Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX

From: Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX
Sent: December 20, 2018 3:39 PM
To: 'Godin, Sarah (AAFC/AAC)'; 'Stewart, Jackie (AAFC/AAC)'
Cc: Bilmer, Blake GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: funding requirements guidelines for wildfire project
Attachments: FundingAcknowledgements-CAIPartners-wildfire-v.02-LC.docx

Hi! have a look at the attached please and let me know of any comments, I'll be adding in the BC gov channels to the social media credits, and wonder about this line, though I cant think off hand of any qualifiers that should be added.

Speaking to the media

However, If the media reaches out to you about this project you are authorized to act as a spokesperson about it. Please let CAI communications know about media interviews so we can keep tabs on any resulting media coverage.

From: Coulter, Liese AGRI:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2018 9:33 AM
To: Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX; McLachlan, Ian P AGRI:EX
Cc: Sheikh, Hanaa AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: funding requirements guidelines for wildfire project

Hi all,

Just an FYI of the advice CAI are giving contractors who will deliver the Wildfire project which is CAP funded, and outside of the FAIP and regional programs funding streams.

All the best,

Liese

From: Coulter, Liese AGRI:EX
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2018 9:23 AM
To: 'Rachel Penner'
Subject: RE: funding requirements guidelines for wildfire project

Rachel,

That is a great thing, thanks. Having written guidance is essential if we are to hold people to the protocols. I made two small suggestions in the document to use or not as you see fit. I think your phrase for the "Climate Change Adaptation Program" works fine.

All the best,

Liese

From: Rachel Penner [mailto:rachel@bcagclimateaction.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 10:25 PM
To: Coulter, Liese AGRI:EX
Subject: funding requirements guidelines for wildfire project

Hi Liese,

I've pulled together a document to provide the wildfire contractors with guidance on the approvals process. I pulled content from the CAP communications guide for CAI and then added a bit more information about talking to media.

The only thing that is different is that in the written credit statement, I've used the phrase "Climate Change Adaptation Program" since the placeholder text in the guide only had either the regional program or FAIP, and obviously this project falls under neither.

Outside of that, there's nothing new in here, but I wanted to get your eyes on it before I sent it to the contractors. I could tell them all this verbally, of course, but personally I always find it useful to refer to a written document, so I thought I would provide that for them if I could.

However, since everything is in a rush with that project - if you feel like you're not comfortable with me passing this along just yet, then I will explain it verbally :D

Let me know your thoughts either way.

Thanks!

Rachel

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Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX

From: Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX
Sent: December 3, 2018 1:19 PM
To: 'Wiens, Randy (CFIA/ACIA)'; Russell, Christine (CFIA/ACIA); Dropko, Andrea (CFIA/ACIA)
Cc: Pritchard, Jane AGRI:EX; Knox, Graham G AGRI:EX; Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX
Subject: FW: Review of Bovine TB case
Attachments: Q&A_M.Bovis_Final_Dec. 3.pdf

Please see the IH factsheet attached – re bTB & human health

From: Allen, Haley [mailto:Haley.Allen@interiorhealth.ca]
Sent: Monday, December 3, 2018 1:05 PM
To: Li, Jessica P GCPE:EX; Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Review of Bovine TB case

Hi Jessica and Robert,

Thank you both for your patience. Attached is the fact sheet on bovine TB.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Can one of you send to CFIA? I'm not sure who it was from there that was requesting this information.

Thank you,

HALEY ALLEN, M.A

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