

Evaluation of Reclamation Practices on Forested Upland and Peatland Well Sites

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InnoTech Alberta, Vertex Resource Group Ltd., Enviro Q&A Services, and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, are excited to share the revised 'wellsite certification tools' for legacy upland (forested) sites that have natural encroachment and peatland sites that were constructed using imported mineral soil material. These tools provide environmental practitioners with streamlined processes to follow and recommended supporting data to include in variances or a change in end land use applications. More 'complete applications' should in turn result in faster decisions around appropriate management and certification of these sites. This PTAC-sponsored project is a phenomenal example of 'collaboration in action'. Numerous environmental practitioners including industry, environmental consultants, and regulators participated in this project and provided feedback that was used to enhance the applicability, usefulness, and accuracy of the tools. In this session an overview of the tools will be provided, as well as a brief introduction to the final project stage – a field research program that will address knowledge gaps for sites that were constructed using mineral soil in peatlands.

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Natalie Shelby-James is a Senior Researcher with InnoTech Alberta. She has a B.Sc. in Environmental & Conservation Sciences and a M.Sc. in Water and Land Resources from the University of Alberta. Natalie has over 18 years of work experience and has supported Projects and Operations across Canada and in Scotland, UK. She has technical expertise in reclamation, soils, vegetation and wetland ecology and extensive experience in engaging stakeholders and managing projects. Current focus areas include: investigating opportunities to accelerate asset retirement and reuse, applied reclamation research, and supporting digital tool development.