

## **Ongoing Initiatives: Upstream Oil and Gas Reclamation and Remediation**

Alberta Environment has stated that there is a backlog of Reclamation Certificate applications which is going to increase in the future with increased drilling and with a reduction in government inspection staff. This puts increasing pressure on Alberta Environment and results in an unwarranted extension of surface leases with concomitant increased costs to industry.

Some reclamation and remediation work is not being done properly. This results in adverse effect on public confidence in government and industry. Currently, there are no competencies required for reclamation or remediation work, other than the membership requirements specified by professional bodies or technical organizations.

Alberta Environment has proposed a change in the reclamation certificate process to allow for "Specialist Sign-off". They have approached involved Professional Regulatory Organizations (PROs) for their opinion and response. In response, the involved PROs (AIA, ASPB, ACPA, APEGGA, CAPF, CAPFT) forwarded a joint proposal – representing over 6000 licensed environmental professionals.

This joint task force of PROs is in ongoing discussions with Alberta Environment regarding the implementation of 'Specialist Sign Off'.