

# PROs for Upstream Oil and Gas Reclamation Certification

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# What's the problem?

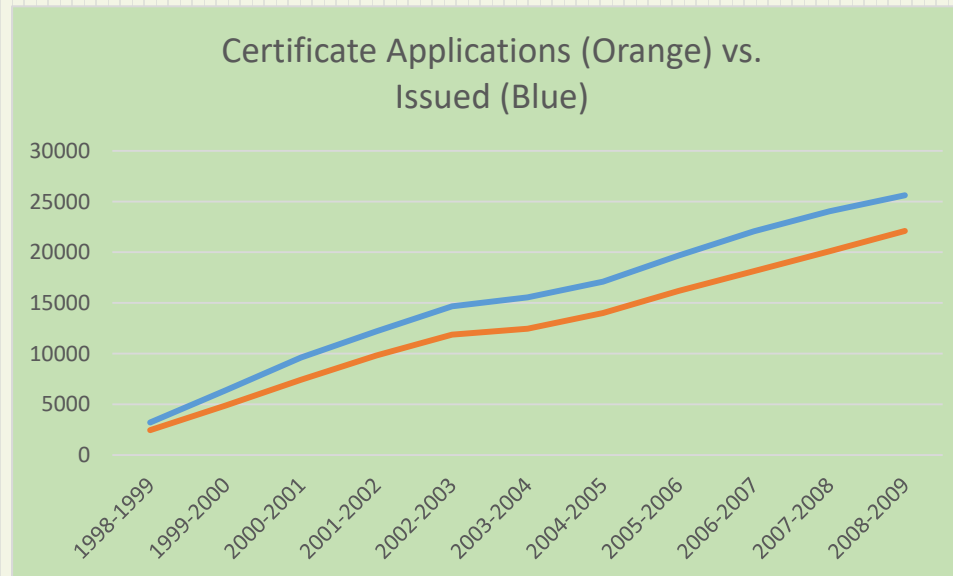
- Legislation required *onsite field inspection* (inquiry) of site by government before certification



# What's the problem?

- But Alberta has this thing called winter so ...

Certification lagged applications creating a *backlog*



# What's the solution?



- 2003 – Legislation change – Remove the requirement for inquiries for upstream oil and gas sites
  - Followed successful piloting of process from 1996 in Green Area (forested public land)
- 2004 – multi-stakeholder OGRRAC Recommendations regarding the competencies of individuals in the remediation and reclamation of oil and gas sites
- 2006 – Gov/PRO Competencies for Remediation and Reclamation Advisory Committee Recommendations Report
- 2007 – PROs – Professional Responsibilities in Completion and Assurance of Reclamation and Remediation Work in Alberta: Joint Practice Standard
- 2008 – Gov policy – Require professional signoff

# What is sign-off?



- The application of the professional member's stamp or seal or membership/registration number, signature, and date to a plan, report, map, or any other form of document indicating that: the professional member has supervised and/or reviewed the reclamation or remediation of the property, that the property has been reclaimed or remediated to an acceptable standard as per the regulators' requirements and *that the regulators may rely upon the professional member for reporting and issue a reclamation or remediation certificate for the property.*

# Three key decisions leading to PRO

1. Need someone the public can trust to sign-off on reclamation and remediation work
  - Has a mandate to protect the public



# Three key decisions leading to PRO

2. Government does not want to be involved in selecting or certifying individual professionals



# Three key decisions leading to PRO

3. ... BUT government still wants some control so ...

## A regulated organization





# Desired attributes of a PRO

1. Has entry requirements for education and experience (screening)



# Desired attributes of a PRO

2. Requires continuing professional development



# Desired attributes of a PRO

3. Requires adherence to a Code of Ethics/Conduct
  - Sets professional practice standards



# Desired attributes of a PRO

4. Has and uses a transparent disciplinary program



# Which professional organizations?

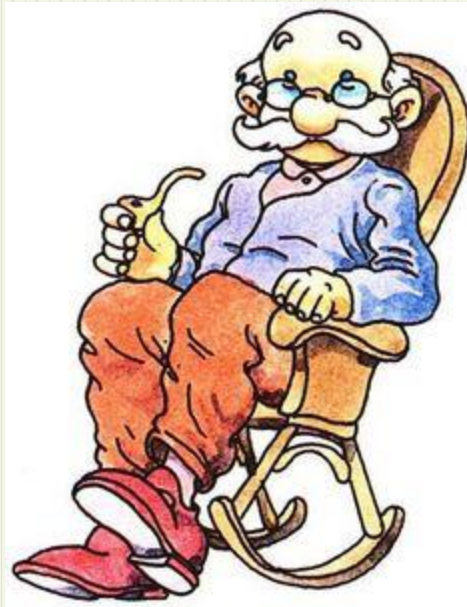
- As of 2012 there are seven PROs
  - Alberta Institute of *Agrologists* (AIA)
  - Alberta Society of Professional *Biologists* (ASPB)
  - College of Alberta Professional *Foresters* (CAPF)
  - Association of Professional *Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists* of Alberta (APEGGA)
  - Association of the *Chemical Profession* of Alberta (ACPA)
  - Association of Science and Engineering *Technology Professionals* in Alberta (ASET)\*
  - College of Alberta Professional Forest *Technologists* (CAPFT)



\* ASET was not on the original list of PROs in 2008

# So, what could go wrong?

- Grandfathering of members in new PROs
  - Think SER or CLRA being added to list



# So, what could go wrong?

- Public confusion due to multiple PRO sign-offs
  - Phase 1 environmental site assessments
  - Compliance Option Checklists for Drilling Waste Disposal
  - Phase 2 environmental site assessments
  - Remediation and confirmatory sampling
  - Reclamation detailed site assessments



# So, what could go wrong?

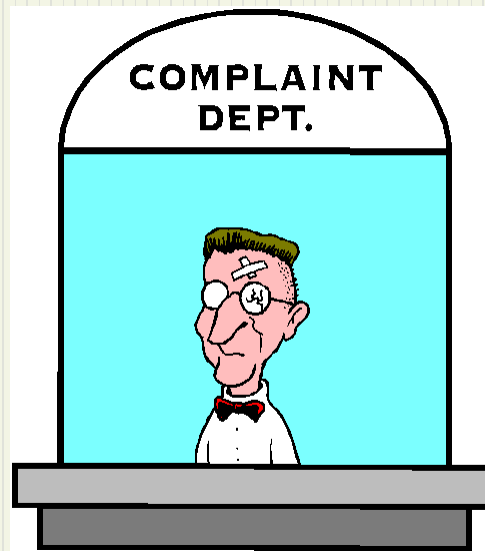
- Do government inspectors also have to be members of a PRO to be able to judge a PRO's work?





# So, what could go wrong?

- Who is going to complain to trigger the disciplinary process
  - Landowner
  - Government
  - Industry



# My take on the Panel question

- Like reclamation, restoration is a multidisciplinary effort therefore *no individual is qualified to practice restoration!*



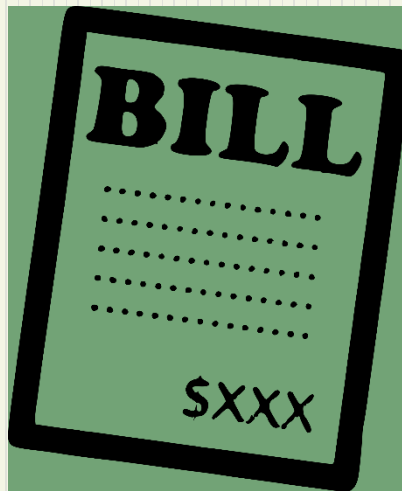
# My take on the Panel question

- A fancy title or set of initials or a stamp doesn't make you a professional – it is your attitude and approach to the way you do business that does.



# My take on the Panel question

- Review your member's existing professional designations before rushing to create another one
  - PROs are expensive to run and be members of!



# Questions?

