
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2018, the Petroleum Technology Alliance Canada (PTAC) put out a request for proposals entitled *Reclamation Practices on Upland and Peatland Well Sites*. The project was established in response to challenges experienced by practitioners, regulators and industry related to reclamation certification of legacy sites. The specific sites in question are those that were constructed using imported mineral soil pads in peatland. The **goal of the overall project** is to provide recommendations for an acceptable framework/decision support tool(s) to assist industry and regulators in making decisions around appropriate management and certification of these sites that ensures that functioning ecosystems are developed and that there is a process that outlines eligibility for reclamation certification.

A draft report, *Certification of Mineral Soil Pads in the Boreal Region – Decision Framework and Support Tools*, was released in October 2020 to provide opportunities for industry, practitioners, and government to review and comment on the document and to set the stage for a field verification trial of the Decision Framework and Support Tools in 2021. The goal of the reviews and field verification trial were to ensure the Decision Framework and Support Tools added value in making decisions on whether to leave a mineral soil pad in a peatland.

PTAC held a Knowledge Transfer webinar June 7, 2021, with presentations by Dean MacKenzie, Vertex Professional Services Ltd., and Bonnie Drozdowski, InnoTech Alberta. The goal of the Knowledge Transfer webinar was to increase awareness of the Decision Support Tools report and to request industry and practitioner participation in a field verification trial in 2021. A second online webinar was held in June 2021 for industry and practitioners interested in conducting the field verification trial. The goal of the second webinar was to familiarize people with the purpose, process, and expectations of the field verification trial.

The results of the stakeholder reviews and field verification trial are summarized in a separate PTAC report. This 2022 Update is a revision of the original Decision Framework and Support Tools report based on the feedback and field verification trial.

The following significant changes have been made in this 2022 Update:

- General
 - Changed language in the Decision Support Tools for consistency and clarity.
 - Changed the tables supporting each Decision Support Tool to clarify that the purpose of the tables is help practitioners decide how to answer Yes or No to the statements in specific decision nodes.
- Section 2.0
 - Added a section that describes the decision framework, defines the key terms used in the framework, sets out caveats for use of the framework, and provides a screening tool to determine if the Decision Framework and Support Tools should be used.
- Section 7.0
 - Clarified that when there is a tie arising from use of the modifications to the initial site rating the site is deemed to be a Candidate for Peatland Reclamation.
- Table 8 (previously Table 7)
 - Clarified that **all** rows in the Table must have an answer.

- Removed several Factors that were already accounted for in the individual DSTs to reduce “double counting”
- Changed the Table so that each factor can change the Peatland Rating or Upland Rating
- Added new Factors
- Section 8.0
 - Added a section to describe recommended information to provide as backup documentation for the change in land use request to Alberta Environment and Parks.

The 2023 Update includes:

- Additional authors
- Changes to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) from Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP), where applicable
- Minor changes to formatting and layout