

Working Title	Name
Science and Technology Specialist.	Vacant

Position Number	Reports to Position Number	Division, Branch/Unit	Ministry
	Mgr 1	Lands Division/Land Policy and Programs Branch	Environment and Protected Areas

Present Classification	Requested Classification
Scientific 3	Scientific 3

Dept ID	Program Code	Project Code (if applicable)

**PURPOSE:**

Reporting to the Reclamation, Remediation and Pesticide Policy manager, Land Conservation and Reclamation Policy Section, this position is responsible for leading the review, analysis, revision and development of land conservation and reclamation policies and supporting on remediation polices. The work supports the implementation of Alberta's government-wide approach to sustainable resources and environmental management. The position will provide technical support on reclamation issues for the development of integrated management policy around all media (air, land, water, waste, climate) to achieve Alberta's environmental outcomes.

This specialized professional position also provides the department with scientific and technical ability in the field of reclamation to:

- Develop provincial guidelines, standards, criteria and directives and other policy instruments that maintain land, manage environmental risk and liabilities in Alberta.
- Evaluate scientific and other information about land issues from a variety of sources, including actions and policies in other jurisdictions.
- Consult and work with stakeholders, Rightsholders and other government agencies to identify priorities and to understand and respond to existing and emerging land issues associated across sectors.
- Provide specialist support to others in the department and the Government of Alberta on complex and emerging issues.
- Communicate new information to stakeholders, Rightsholders and government agencies.

These responsibilities are directed towards establishing and maintaining reclamation outcomes on lands affected by industrial disturbances and are carried out under the authority of the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) and in fulfillment of the Department Business Plan.

**RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES:**

1. Policy Identification and Strategy:
  - a. Interact with external stakeholders and Rightsholders, industry, other government departments, departmental executives, the Alberta Energy Regulator, and the Alberta Utilities Commission to establish direction and to determine policy needs and gaps required to meet departmental business objectives.
  - b. Interact with conservation and reclamation technical experts to identify research needs and gaps related to closure.
  - c. Identify research gaps and work with researchers and research organizations to ensure identified gaps in knowledge are filled.
  - d. Apply and understand risk assessment in determining appropriate policy development.
2. Policy Development:
  - a. Apply project management principals in the development of policy by producing project

**PURPOSE:**

- charters, timelines, work plans, etc.
  - b. Facilitate the development of policy through group activities, collaboration and consultation.
  - c. Write policy documents, briefing notes etc. and administer policy through established administrative systems to completion.
  - d. Oversee the development and review of legislation, standards and guidelines as they relate to conservation and reclamation and able to support on remediation.
  - e. Provide advice at a provincial level to elected officials and senior management on policy needs.
3. Policy assurance and education
- a. Follow up on developed policy to assure it delivers on its intended purpose, using established assurance methodology.
  - b. Educate those who are subjected to or effected by policy and ensure they understand the policy's purpose through personal communication, meetings, workshops etc.
  - c. Answer specific questions related to policy interpretation for both Government of Alberta and external stakeholders and Rightsholders.

**SCOPE:**

Conservation, reclamation and remediation policy development is focused at a provincial level on interpreting legislation, understanding systems and identifying issues related to the conservation and reclamation of industrial sectors. The expected output is the direction necessary to achieve departmental outcomes associated with conservation, environmental sustainability, the reestablishment of equivalent land capability, and the management of cumulative effects and environmental risks and liabilities.

The range of issues the Science and Technology Specialist is responsible for will be broad and will go from the development of major strategies, frameworks and the development and review of legislation to the development of standards and guidelines to guide operations. Specific technical and scientific topic areas might be soil salvage and replacement, re-vegetation strategies, use of remote sensing for assessment, wildlife habitat and liability management. This individual will be expected to lead initiatives in these areas and review Acts, Regulations and other policies to ensure alignment.

This position will maintain strategic and effective relationships with other related Department sections, other Divisions, other provincial and federal government departments, industry, Indigenous communities and organizations, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) and municipalities to develop, advance and communicate clear outcome-based reclamation and remediation policies.

**Stakeholders:**

- EPA organizational units.
- Industry associations.
- Governments (municipal, other Alberta departments and institutions, other provinces, federal).
- Professional Regulatory Organizations
- Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Utilities Commission, Orphan Well Association
- ENGOS and public interest groups.
- Members of the public.
- Indigenous Peoples including First Nations and Metis Associations.
- Researchers and research organizations.

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES:**

In depth knowledge (Post-graduate degree in science or engineering preferred, with experience; or undergraduate degree in science or engineering, with five or more years experience) in:

- Land reclamation including soil chemistry, soil physics, and ecology.
- Conventional and non-conventional oil and gas operations in both the upstream and downstream sectors

**KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES:**

- Scientific research experience
- General knowledge of ecology, geology, hydrogeology, law, contaminated sites management, remote sensing, and statistics.
- Ability to interpret existing scientific information and integrate new data and information as it arises, using the latest scientific methods, and present the information in terms understandable to scientific experts, non-scientific stakeholders, and members of the public.
- Knowledge and understanding of provincial, national and international activities as context for setting environmental guidelines and objectives or the establishment of policy.
- Capable of working independently, in a multi-disciplinary team environment, or as the leader of specialist and/or multi-disciplinary teams as the situation requires.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills to communicate effectively with specialists and non-specialists, including members of the public.
- Ability to establish contacts in the academic and professional community to resolve policy issues encountered during the course of the work.
- Strong time management to be effective in balancing multiple demands
- Interpersonal skills for teamwork and for effective public consultation and facilitation.
- Knowledge and ability to use a desktop computer and Microsoft Windows software are required
- Knowledge of provincial government administrative and financial procedures and policies are an asset.
- Qualification for membership in the Alberta Institute of Agrologists or a similar professional association.
- Willingness to meet professional requirements on an ongoing basis, and increase knowledge by pursuing professional and continuing education opportunities.

*This information is being collected under the authority of Section 10 of the Public Service Act and will be used to allocate positions within a classification plan and to manage the Alberta government human resources program. If you have any questions about the collection of this information, contact the Compensation Manager, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Peace Hills Trust Tower, 10011 – 109 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3S8, phone 408-8400 or contact your Ministry Human Resource Office.*

**Signatures**

The signatures below indicate that all signers have read and discussed the information in this Position Description.

**Incumbent**

	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Signature	Date

**Supervisor**

	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Signature	Date

**Division Director/ADM**

	_____	_____	_____
	Name	Signature	Date