

Working Title		Name	
Contaminated Sites Policy Specialist.			
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	
Dept ID	Program Code	Project Code (if applicable)	

PURPOSE:

Reporting to the Manager of Reclamation, Remediation and Pesticide Policy within the Land Conservation and Reclamation Policy Section, this senior scientific position leads the strategic development and implementation of provincial remediation policies. It applies advanced scientific analysis to support comprehensive environmental management outcomes.

The position plays a key role in building and maintaining strategic relationships across departmental branches and divisions, other provincial and federal government departments, the energy sector, environmental NGOs, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders. It leads the collaborative development and communication of outcome-based environmental policies and fosters agreement among diverse partners.

This specialized professional position also provides the department with scientific and technical ability in the field of remediation 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.
- Identify research needs and collaborate with the scientific community to close knowledge gaps.
- Provide specialist support to others in the department and the Government of Alberta on complex and emerging issues.
- Effectively communicate scientific findings and policy updates to stakeholders, Rightsholders, and partners.

All of these responsibilities are directed towards establishing and maintaining environmental management outcomes on land, air and water, and are carried out under the authority of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA) and in fulfillment of the Department Business Plan.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES:

1. Develop scientifically credible and defensible remediation guidelines, objectives, legislation and other policies and instruments to maintain environmental management outcomes for land, air and water.

Activities:

- Lead the identification and generation of advanced scientific data to address environmental uncertainties and data gaps, leveraging interdisciplinary teams and external partnerships.
- Collaborate with stakeholders throughout the guideline development process to ensure transparency and inclusiveness

PURPOSE:

- Liaise with the Alberta Energy Regulator, operations staff, and other government departments regarding remediation policy and procedures under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and its regulations.
- Lead remediation policy development through multi-stakeholder committees, incorporating legislative requirements, operational input, and stakeholder feedback.
- Ensure connection and congruency for internal and external groups working on remediation policy.
- Clarify remediation policy issues and provide jurisdictional comparisons to support stakeholder understanding.
- Represent the department as a scientific expert on multi-stakeholder committees developing environmental objectives and policies.

2. Evaluate information on substance releases and contaminated sites, including their impact on land, air, and water, drawing on national and international sources.

Activities:

- Conduct in-depth evaluations of federal and international activities affecting Alberta's environmental programs; synthesize findings to inform provincial policy.
- Monitor remediation trends and regulatory actions in other jurisdictions.
- Assess the scientific validity of reports submitted to the government or produced by external organizations related to soil and groundwater quality.
- Identify and flag emerging issues that may require policy or regulatory response.

3. Identify research needs and priorities to support the development of policies for maintaining land quality as it relates to substance releases that may impact human health or the environment. Initiate, co-ordinate and manage the research programs and contracts that are designed to meet departmental needs and support departmental policies, priorities and legislative requirements.

Activities:

- Maintain current knowledge of global scientific literature in environmental science, remediation technologies, and risk-based remediation standards.
- Identify emerging scientific and policy issues relevant to Alberta.
- Develop and manage contracts for projects dealing with remediation technologies or tools that are funded in whole or in part by the Department.
- Ensure that research outcomes are effectively communicated to stakeholders and the public in alignment with departmental protocols.

4. Engage with stakeholders and government agencies to collectively identify and respond to environmental issues related to contaminated sites through multi-stakeholder processes.

Activities:

- Collaborate with stakeholders and clients to identify emerging issues and provide scientific and policy advice to resolve them.
- Lead or contribute to multi-stakeholder committees, ensuring public and partner engagement in environmental decision-making.
- Liaise with academic and research institutions through lectures, seminars, and professional engagement to promote departmental priorities and foster scientific collaboration.
- Respond to inquiries from stakeholders and the public regarding departmental policies, initiatives, procedures, and legislation.

5. Provide expert scientific support to departmental and cross-government initiatives and perform related duties as require.

Activities:

- Offer specialized scientific expertise to inform the development of departmental and provincial environmental policies, ensuring alignment with best practices and legislative requirements.
- Present scientific analysis to foreign environmental delegations and advise other governments on program/policy development.
- Negotiate contracts, identifying products and deliverables, establish performance criteria and conduct performance reviews.

SCOPE:

1. Develop and apply environmental standards, guidelines, objectives, and policy instruments at the provincial and national levels that align with provincial legislation, government business objectives, and intergovernmental agreements (e.g., CCME, Health Canada, Environment Canada).
 - Apply advanced scientific principles and expertise across multiple environmental disciplines, including soil science, contaminant transport, hydrology, hydrogeology, toxicology, and chemistry, to develop and evaluate legislation, policies, and other instruments.
 - Assess when additional subject matter expertise is required and integrate it effectively into policy development.
 - Analyze external policies for applicability in Alberta, including assessing the impact of policy implementation in other jurisdictions on the province.
 - Lead the development of environmental management policies and related tools to support regulatory compliance and environmental outcomes.
2. Collaborate with stakeholders and government agencies to identify priorities and collectively respond to existing and emerging environmental issues through multi-stakeholder processes:
 - Identify policy needs and priorities and manage projects and contracts.
 - Engage with stakeholders, the public, students, and the research community to identify needs and develop joint work towards issue resolution.
 - Apply scientific principles, expertise and knowledge in environmental science and management (disciplines listed above) to assist in policy development and evaluation.
 - Ensure that the issues brought forward by non-scientific stakeholders (e.g. Aboriginal Peoples and members of the public) are addressed in a scientific manner that meets the needs of all participating stakeholders.
 - Identify potential liabilities and work with stakeholders to minimize liability risks.
 - Develop plans to address emerging issues in environmental management, keeping within the context of governmental policy and departmental procedures.

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, provincial, federal).
- Professional regulatory organizations
- Alberta Energy Regulator, Alberta Utilities Commission, Orphan Well Association
- Environmental non-governmental organizations and public interest group.
- Members of the public.
- Indigenous Peoples including First Nations and Metis Associations.
- Researchers and research organizations.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES:

The position requires a high level of scientific expertise, analytical ability, and leadership in environmental science and policy. Candidates should possess either:

- A post-graduate degree in science or engineering with relevant experience; or
- An undergraduate degree in science or engineering with a minimum of six years of directly related experience.

Technical Knowledge and Expertise:

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ABILITIES:

- Advanced knowledge of remediation and contaminated sites management, including toxicology, hydrogeology, soil chemistry, and soil physics as they relate to contaminant behavior and remediation strategies.
- Demonstrated ability to investigate, assess, and diagnose ecological and human health risks associated with soil, subsoil, and groundwater contamination.
- In-depth understanding of applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and agreements related to remediation.
- Familiarity with national and international environmental policy frameworks and their influence on provincial guideline and policy development.
- Knowledge of scientific literature and the ability to apply evolving research and emerging data to policy development and decision-making.

Analytical and Conceptual Skills:

- Ability to critically interpret complex scientific data and integrate new findings using current scientific methods.
- Capacity to present technical information in formats accessible to a range of audiences, including scientific experts, non-specialist stakeholders, and the public.
- Skill in identifying policy implications from research and data and translating these into actionable strategies.

Interpersonal and Leadership Skills:

- Proven ability to work independently, collaboratively within interdisciplinary teams, or as the lead on multi-disciplinary initiatives.
- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal, to engage effectively with specialists, policymakers, stakeholders, and the public.
- Strong interpersonal and negotiation skills to lead consultations and facilitate consensus in multi-stakeholder environments.
- Ability to develop and maintain professional networks in the academic, regulatory, and environmental sectors to support policy development and resolve complex issues.

Organizational and Administrative Competencies:

- Effective time management and organizational skills to manage multiple projects and priorities in a fast-paced environment.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Windows and standard desktop software applications.
- Familiarity with Government of Alberta administrative, financial, and contracting procedures is an asset.

Professional Requirements:

- Eligibility for membership in a recognized professional association such as:
 - Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASPB)
 - Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA)
 - Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA)
 - Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta (ACPA), or equivalent.
- Commitment to maintaining professional certification and pursuing ongoing learning and development opportunities.