

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can nominate a site for reclamation?

Indigenous communities, landowners and local governments may nominate, specific **dormant** or **orphan** oil or natural gas sites on their territory/property/district for consideration for work under the Dormant Sites Reclamation Program or the Orphan Sites Supplemental Reclamation Program, respectively.

2. Where do I go to nominate a site for reclamation?

The portal to nominate a site for reclamation is managed by the BC Oil and Gas Commission and can be found at <https://www.bcogc.ca/how-we-regulate/restore-reclaim-sites/>. A link to this nomination portal is also provided on the Ministry [Dormant Sites Reclamation Program Site Nomination](#) webpage.

3. Where can I find help to use the nomination portal?

A guide to help people use the nomination portal website has been created. The Dormant and Orphan Site Nomination Portal Quick Reference Guide is available at: https://www.bcogc.ca/files/documents/Portal-user-guide_v2.pdf.

4. What is a dormant site?

A well site is considered dormant if it does not meet a threshold of activity for five consecutive years or does not produce for at least 720 hours a year. A dormant site remains the responsibility of the permit holder. Additional information on how dormant sites are regulated can be found at: <https://www.bcogc.ca/what-we-regulate/oil-gas/dormant-sites/>.

5. What is an orphan site?

Orphan sites are wells, facilities, pipelines and associated areas where an oil and gas company is insolvent or cannot be located. Additional information on the decommissioning and restoration of orphan sites can be found at: <https://www.bcogc.ca/what-we-regulate/oil-gas/orphan-sites/>.

6. The map on the nomination portal has both orphan and dormant sites. How can I tell on the map whether a site is a dormant site or an orphan site?

As you navigate the map, dormant and orphan sites are visible within the map view where they are indicated by yellow squares and at the same time, they also appear listed on the right-hand side of the portal. The list on the right-hand side of the portal will indicate “Orphan” at the front of the site name. The list also includes the well number of the site and, in the case of a dormant site, the name of the permit holder responsible for that site.

Frequently Asked Questions

7. Can I nominate both orphan and dormant sites?

Yes, the nomination portal includes both orphan and dormant sites.

Under the Dormant Sites Reclamation Program, Indigenous communities, landowners and local governments may nominate specific **dormant** oil or natural gas sites on their territory/property/district for consideration for work under the Dormant Sites Reclamation Program.

Under the Orphan Sites Supplemental Reclamation Program, Indigenous communities, landowners and local governments may nominate, specific **orphan** oil or natural gas sites on their territory/property/district for consideration for work under the Orphan Sites Supplemental Reclamation Program.

8. What is the Orphan Sites Supplemental Reclamation Program?

From funding provided by the Federal Government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan, British Columbia announced three new programs to clean up orphaned, dormant and legacy oil and gas sites. The Orphan Sites Supplemental Reclamation Program is one of these programs and is administered by the BC Oil and Gas Commission.

The \$15 million dollar Orphan Sites Supplemental Reclamation Program is in addition to planned orphan spending of more than \$27 million this year under the Commission's Comprehensive Liability Management Plan. Work under the Comprehensive Liability Management Plan is funded by the oil and gas sector through liability and production levies.

The additional funding provided by Canada provides the Province the opportunity to accelerate orphan reclamation work in B.C. over the next two years. Funding from the program will be used to deactivate and decommission wells, pipelines, and related facilities, the removal of equipment, site investigation, site remediation, and final site reclamation needed to restore sites designated as orphans.

9. How do I find my property on the map in the Nomination Portal?

The simplest way is to use the **Find address or place** tool in the top left of the map view by entering a physical address or place name (*e.g., 6534 Airport Rd*).

10. How do I find dormant or orphan sites on my Nation's traditional territory?

In the nomination portal, you may use the **Find address or place** tool in the top left of the map view and enter the name of an Indigenous Nation (*e.g., Doig River*). Then use the **Zoom Out** buttons located in the top left of the map to view the broader area and navigate from there. All well sites in the current map view will be listed on the right-hand side of the Portal.

Frequently Asked Questions

11. What happens to a site if it is nominated? Does that mean that it will be reclaimed?

In the case of dormant sites, permit holders who have the responsibility to reclaim the site will be notified that one or more of their dormant sites have been nominated under the Dormant Sites Reclamation Program. Nomination of a site puts it forward for priority consideration in the 2nd funding increment of the Dormant Sites Reclamation Program. Permit holders ultimately make the business decision whether to seek out a contractor to do the reclamation work who would then apply for the funding. There is no guarantee that any site nominated under the program will receive funding through this program or that the amount of funding will be adequate to fully restore the site.

In the case of orphan sites, nominations will be provided for consideration of work in the Orphan Sites Supplemental Reclamation Program. If approved, work that may be completed within the program window will be completed, subject to availability of funding.

12. What happens if a site is nominated more than once?

The number of times a site is nominated will not impact whether it is given additional priority for receiving funding. Sites can be nominated by Indigenous communities, landowners and local governments with dormant or orphan sites on their territory/property/district.

13. How can I get a contract to do work to reclaim sites that are nominated?

Contractors who are eligible to apply for funding under the Dormant Sites Reclamation Program must have a contract in place with a permit holder to do work. It is the responsibility of the field service sector companies to obtain the contract with the permit holder. Permit holders for dormant sites are identified in the nomination portal.

For work on orphan site reclamation, the BC Oil and Gas Commission selects qualified service providers from a rotation list of contractors on a standing offer. Requests for standing offers are posted to the BC Bid website.

14. Why are there so many sites only in the northeast and almost none in the rest of the province? Does the map show all dormant and orphan sites?

Almost all historic and current oil and gas activity in British Columbia has occurred in the northeast of the Province. The map shows all the dormant and orphan sites in the Province as per the BC Oil and Gas Commission's data base. The data base is continually updated as the status of well sites change. A link to the spatial data for dormant and orphan sites can be found at: <https://www.bcogc.ca/what-we-regulate/oil-gas/dormant-sites/>.