



Inactive and Suspended Oil Wells

Why the Red Water case is important to Agrologists

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What (or who) is Redwater?

- ▶ Alberta-based Redwater Energy Corporation
 - Formed in 2009; bankrupt in 2015
- ▶ 100 wells, pipeline and related facilities
 - Only 17 wells were producing

- ▶ The case: pay back the creditors before addressing their environmental obligations



Redwater Continued

- ▶ Lower courts agreed
- ▶ Eventually the case wound up at the Supreme Court of Canada
- ▶ The Supreme Court ruled that Redwater's trustee couldn't walk away from environmental obligations



So Why Should We Care?

- ▶ There are currently approximately 1,500 inactive wells in Manitoba and 26,000 in Saskatchewan
- ▶ Redwater wins = companies can walk away without recourse
- ▶ Now...oil and gas companies will continue to fund the Orphan Well levee and to abandon wells

- ▶ There is currently no regulation in Manitoba or Saskatchewan which dictates the time between “suspended” and “abandoned”
- ▶ Companies can leave wells suspended for years with minimal regulatory requirement
- ▶ There is appetite for regulation from the Canadian public and from producers



How are we involved?

- ▶ Agrologists who work in the Environment sector currently account for 24% of Manitoba's registered members
 - Second only to Crop Protection sector
- ▶ Many are based in the southwest corner of the province where oil and gas production is active

- ▶ Good Lands is a private company based in Pierson
 - We currently have 22 staff members
 - 8 are registered with Agrologists Manitoba
 - 5 P.Ag.'s, 3 Tech.Ag.'s
 - 2 registered P.Ag.'s with Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists
 - 3 have dual registration in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan
 - 2 Professional Biologists registered in Alberta

- ▶ Why is this important??
 - ▶ **Mobility!**