

MEDIA RELEASE

WELL WATCH PROGRAM

YELLOWKNIFE (August 11, 2016) - The Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) is launching a new program: Well Watch.

The Well Watch Program is designed to encourage local land users to report concerns with historic, abandoned well sites to OROGO so that they can be assessed and any identified risks can be addressed.

The program recognizes that the people who use the land are in the best place to notice changes to the land. Information from community members will help OROGO to target its inspection activities towards well sites of concern in areas used by residents of the Northwest Territories. It will also serve to validate the information that OROGO has on file about abandoned wells in its jurisdiction.

More information on the program is available on OROGO's website at www.oro.go.gov.nt.ca/news. Communities interested in finding out more about the program or scheduling an introductory meeting can call 867-767-9097 or email oro.go@gov.nt.ca.

Quote:

"OROGO is excited to build on the success of its work with communities to date. The Well Watch Program is an opportunity for our staff and community members to share knowledge, address concerns and learn more about abandoned wells in the area we regulate."

- **James Fulford**, Executive Director, OROGO

Quick Facts:

- There are just under 600 abandoned wells in OROGO's area of jurisdiction, which were drilled between 1920 and 2012.
- Abandoned wells have been permanently plugged and the well casing has been cut and capped below the ground surface. They are usually identified by a well marker.

Related Links:

www.oro.go.gov.nt.ca/news

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