Orphan Well Plugging Update
December 2017
What is an orphan well?
Prior to 2014 – less than 500 wells
Since 2014 – 5,705 orphan wells
Since 2014: 2070 wells removed
3635 remaining wells
State Map 2014 to Current

Orphan Well Projects

- Alpha Eagle Butte: 67 wells
- Alpha Coal Belle Ayro: 101 wells
- Arvada: 392 wells
- Buckskin Mine: 61 wells
- Buffalo Crazy Woman: 137 wells
- Gillette 2016: 239
- Gillette North and South: 319 wells
- Gillette South 2015 Alpha: 247 wells
- Industrial Gas: 17 wells
- Kuhn Ranch: 207 wells
- North: 142 wells
- Salvage: 230 wells
- So Campbell 2015 Wright: 76 wells
- Southern Oil: 6 wells
North Map 2014 to Current

Orphan Well Projects

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Future Projects

- IGS – 17 wells
- Kuhn Ranch – 188 wells
- BW – 300 wells
- Urban Gillette – 330 wells
The Process

Select Wells
- Geographic packages
- Prioritize based on risk
  - Environmental
  - Public health and safety

Project Planning
- Landowner Contact
- Access/Well Mapping
- P&A Procedure Planning

Statewide Bid
- Bids through Dept. of A&I
- Evaluate bids
  - Cost, safety, current work, compliance with bid specs

Project Execution
- Mow roads/location
- Build roads
- P&A wells
- Well conversion to water wells
- Equipment removal
- Reclamation
Landowners researched and contacted:

- Authorization to access property
- Routes/roads to wells
- Storage yard
- Water wells
- Reclamation
Old equipment pulled

Bridge plug

Cementing
Wells are cut and capped
Reclamation
After

Before
THE MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION

- Bonds
- Conservation Tax