Well Decommissioning with Surface Casing Vent Flows/Gas Migration

OVERVIEW

In September 2022, the AER asked for assistance to guide industry in the use of the DACC IRP 27: Wellbore Decommissioning for:

- Applications including nonroutine abandonments in accordance with AER Directive 20: Well Abandonments
- Source identification when repairing a SCVF/GM in accordance with AER Directive 87: Well Integrity

FAST FACTS

- Wells with technical SCVF/GM issues are a common concern and prior to decommissioning, source identification must be addressed.
- Source identification in IRP 27 contains best practices for a successful repair of SCVF/GM.
- IRP 26 Wellbore Remediation contains best practices to re-establish wellbore integrity and/or ensure hydraulic isolation between porous intervals.
Alberta Well Abandonments with Surface Casing Vent Flows/Gas Migration | Continued

**DACC IRP 27**

DACC IRP 27 is a set of best practices for performing safe, efficient, permanent wellbore decommissioning while mitigating the adverse impacts to the environment and protecting ground water.

IRP 27, Section 27.9.3 SCVF/GM source identification, suggests the use of all available information when determining a remediation program.

This includes:

- Well history review
- Offset well review
- Collection and analysis of all vent flow data, carbon isotope data and logging data.

**AER DIRECTIVE 20 NON-ROUTINE APPLICATIONS AND SCVF/GM REPAIRS**

When application to the AER is made for a nonroutine decommissioning, it is typically based on wellbore problems.

Non-routine applications must be submitted to the AER Well Operations department for review and approval prior to the work beginning.

SCVF/GM issues must be repaired at the source(s). The AER considers IRP 27, Section 27.9.3 as the best practice for the identification of the SCVF/GM source and applications should follow this guidance when applying for approval of an operational plan.