

**DACC ASSOCIATIONS:**



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## 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.



### REFERENCES & ACRONYMS

**AER Directive 020:**  
Well Abandonment

**AER Directive 087:**  
Well Integrity Management

**DACC IRP 26:**  
Wellbore Remediation

**DACC IRP 27:**  
Wellbore Decommissioning

**AER** - Alberta Energy Regulator

**DACC** - Drilling and Completions Committee

**GM** - Gas migration

**IRP** - DACC Industry Recommended Practice

**SCVF** - Surface Casing Vent Flow