

Project Profile

Project Name:	First Nation Disturbance Restoration Program
Project Number:	FN-REST-2018-01
Proponent:	BC Energy Regulator
Funding Envelope:	Indigenous Programs
Timeframe:	November 1, 2017 to June 30, 2026

Project objectives

The objectives of the project are as follows:

- share knowledge relating to environmental impacts of well site development and other activities causing disturbances (e.g., seismic, roads);
- understand restoration successes as well as areas for improvement;
- provide opportunities for direct community member participation/employment in the restoration/rehabilitation process; and
- make recommendations on reclamation issues and best practices that may incorporate community environmental knowledge.

The project structure will provide opportunities for learnings between First Nations and Non-First Nations to jointly ensure the continued access to healthy lands, resources and ecosystems for present and future generations.

Project approach

The project involves the following activities:

1. Formulate an agreement between First Nation community and the BC Energy Regulator (formerly, the BC Oil and Gas Commission) to participate in the Program.
2. Select a range of sites and areas—reclaimed well sites and other disturbances that have received a Certificate of Restoration (CoR); orphan well sites and other disturbance areas; comparable control sites in undisturbed areas.
3. Work jointly to review and plan any restoration activities:
 - establish working group;
 - develop plan for chosen sites and other areas;

- Provide formal restoration training;
- develop joint risk assessment;
- implement remedial plan in conjunction with other parties including the Natural Resource Sector Aboriginal Liaison Program and various internal departments;
- Develop communication strategy for gov/media/public; and
- Hold community education session relating to environmental aspects of remediation/reclamation.