Supplementary Material: Orphaned oil and gas well stimulus – maximizing economic and environmental benefits

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Supplemental material

Orphaned wells

Using available state data, we compile the number of wells newly orphaned per month from September 2019 to December 2020 in two states and two provinces: Texas, Louisiana, British Columbia, and Manitoba (Fig. S2). These four states/provinces are plotted because the number of newly orphaned wells per month is available for more than 10 months. The orphaned well counts are determined from state/provincial orphaned well lists or well statuses in oil and gas well databases indicating that the well is orphaned. Comparing the orphaned well numbers to the WTI oil price, Texas and Manitoba appear to show increases in the number of orphaned wells following the drop in oil prices in April 2020, while no clear relationship appears to exist in Louisiana or British Columbia.

To evaluate multi-year variation in orphaned well numbers across the U.S., we compile the numbers of orphaned wells reported by the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) from 1992 to 2019 (IOGCC, 1992; 1996; 2000; 2008; 2009; 2019) (Fig. S6 and Tab. S5). The most recent report published in 2019 and updated in March 2020 finds 56,594 orphaned wells across the 30 surveyed states (Fig. S6 and Tab. S5). Over the past thirty years in which the IOGCC has been compiling these reports, the number of orphaned wells remained at 50,000

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to 60,000 wells (Fig. S6).

We compare the orphaned well numbers in the two most recent reports (IOGCC, 2009; 2019) to evaluate trends among states. Although there has been a 5% decrease in orphaned well numbers nationwide in the past 11 years, the trend among states is not consistent (Tab. S5). Slightly more than half, 14 out of 27 states, show an increase in the number of orphaned wells, whereas 12 states indicate a decrease. The number of orphaned wells remains constant in only one state - Alaska. The maximum increase in the number of orphaned wells is 3,386 (West Virginia) and the maximum decrease in the number of orphaned wells is 4,935 (Texas). Another notable state is Wyoming where the number of orphaned wells increased from zero in 2008 to 3,083 in 2019.

We also analyze data from the Alberta Orphan Well Association and present the number of wells that stopped production per year from 1961 to 2020 and eventually became orphaned (Fig. S2). Data from Alberta suggest that a decrease in oil price leads to an increase in the number of orphaned wells over the next several years. Following the decrease in oil price in 2015, 1315 wells (0.8% of active wells) in Alberta stopped production in 2016 to 2018 and eventually became orphaned (Fig. S3).

Plugging costs

For plugging costs of \$1,000, \$10,000, and \$100,000 per well, we estimate the cost per tonne of carbon emissions avoided (Tab. S6). We consider 20-, 50-, and 100- year lifetime for the plug following the approach in Kang et al. (2019), and we assume methane flow rates of 10,000, 100,000, and 1,000,000 mg/hour per well based on available measurements (Kang et al., 2019; Williams et al., 2020). These high-emitters make 9% and 2% of measured abandoned wells using a threshold of 10,000 mg/hr/well and 100,000 mg/hr/well respectively (Williams et al., 2020). We use a global warming potential of 25 for a 100-year time frame, as used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Greenhouse Gas Inventory (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2019). We find plugging costs per tonne of CO₂e to vary from \$0.10 USD per tonne CO₂e to \$2,283 USD per tonne CO₂e.

Canada's orphan well stimulus funding

The \$1.7-billion stimulus fund of 2020 was distributed as follows: \$1.2 billion to Alberta, \$120 million to British Columbia, and \$380 million to Saskatchewan. Of these funds, \$1 billion has been allocated to Alberta's Site Rehabilitation Program,

which "provides grants to oil field service contractors to perform well, pipeline, and oil and gas site closure and reclamation work". In British Columbia, \$100 million (out of the \$120 million allocated to the province) is being spent to decommission wells for which a permit holder still exists.

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Table S1. List of oil and gas exploration and production companies filing for bankruptcy in 2020 in the U.S.

| | | | Total Debt | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|--|
| Company | Reason for default | Date | (Haynes & Boone) | Court | Source |
| Bridgemark Corporation | Chapter 11 | 14-Jan-20 | \$53,663,450 | C.D. Cal. | S&P Platts, Haynes & Boone |
| Southland Royalty Co. LLC | Chapter 11 | 27-Jan-20 | \$625,047,200 | D. Del. | S&P Platts, Haynes & Boone |
| Dalf Energy | Chapter 11 | 17-Feb-20 | \$1,218,273 | W.D. Tex. | S&P Platts, Haynes & Boone |
| Sheridan Holding Company I, | Chapter 11 | 23-Mar-20 | \$618,485,147 | S.D. Tex. | S&P Platts, Haynes & Boone |
| LLC | | | | | |
| Echo Energy Partners | Chapter 11 | 24-Mar-20 | \$91,260,516 | S.D. Tex. | S&P Platts, Haynes & Boone |
| Whiting Petroleum Corp | Chapter 11 | 1-Apr-20 | \$3,566,815,493 | S.D. Tex. | S&P Platts, Haynes & Boone |
| Sklar Exploration | Chapter 11 | 1-Apr-20 | \$41,000,988 | D. Colo | S&P Platts, Haynes & Boone |
| Amazing Energy | | 6-Apr-20 | \$13,489,109 | S.D. Miss. | Haynes & Boone |
| Sable Permian Resources Holdings | Missed Interest | 8-Apr-20 | | | S&P Platts |
| Temblor Petroleum Company | | 9-Apr-20 | \$12,198,912 | E.D. Cal. | Haynes & Boone |
| Yuma Energy | | 15-Apr-20 | \$28,270,794 | N.D. Tex | Haynes & Boone |
| Buzzards Bench | | 30-Apr-20 | \$16,092,638 | S.D Tex | Haynes & Boone |
| SM Energy | Distressed Exchange | 30-Apr-20 | | | S&P Platts |
| Victerra Energy Holdings | _ | 6-May-20 | | | Haynes & Boone |
| Freedom Oil & Gas, Inc. | | 11-May-20 | \$26,942,930 | S.D. Tex. | Haynes & Boone |
| Callon Petroleum | Distressed Exchange | 11-May-20 | | | S&P Platts |
| Freedom Oil & Gas, Inc. | _ | 14-May-20 | \$26,942,930 | S.D. Tex. | Haynes & Boone |
| New Emerald Energy | | 14-May-20 | \$30,000,000 | N.D. Tex | Haynes & Boone |
| Fieldwood Energy | Missed Interest | 15-May-20 | | | S&P Platts |
| Gavilan Resources | Chapter 11 | 15-May-20 | \$587,139,471 | S.D. Tex. | S&P Platts, Haynes & Boone |
| Ultra Petroleum | Chapter 11 | 15-May-20 | \$3,569,200,000 | S.D. Tex. | S&P Platts, Haynes & Boone |
| Centennial Resource Development | Distressed Exchange | 21-May-20 | | | S&P Platts |
| Unit Corporation | | 22-May-20 | \$789,000,000 | S.D. Tex. | Haynes & Boone |
| Templar Energy LLC | | 31-May-20 | \$465,700,000 | D. Del. | Haynes & Boone |
| Extraction Oil & Gas | Missed Interest in May; | 14-Jun-20 | \$1,944,700,000 | D. Del. | S&P Platts, Haynes & Boone |
| | Chapter 11 in June | | | | |
| Chisholm Oil & Gas Operating | Chapter 11 | 17-Jun-20 | \$534,720,927 | D. Del. | Haynes & Boone |
| Sable Permian Resources | Chapter 11 | 25-Jun-20 | \$1,383,690,140 | S.D. Tex. | Haynes & Boone |
| Chesapeake Energy | Chapter 11 | 28-Jun-20 | \$9,169,000,000 | S.D. Tex. | Haynes & Boone |
| Lilis Energy, Inc. | Chapter 11 | 28-Jun-20 | \$441,750,000 | S.D. Tex. | Haynes & Boone |
| California Resources Corp | Chapter 11 (Distressed | 14-Jul-20 | \$5,000,000,000 | | S&P Platts, |
| | Exchange/Seeking | | | | https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/env |
| | Bankruptcy, Feb. 24, 2020) | | | | ironment/2020/07/15/crc-californias-largest- |
| | | | | | oil-and-gas-company-files-bankruptcy- |
| | | | | | protection/5446329002/_ |

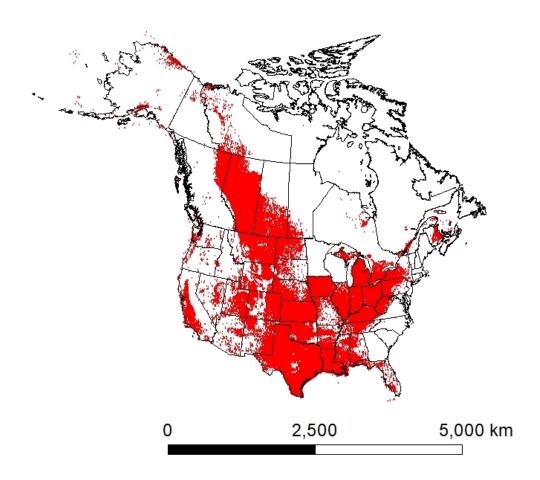


Figure S1. Distribution of drilled oil and gas wells, including historic and active wells, across Canada and the U.S. based on state/provincial/territorial databases listed in Tab. S3 and S4.

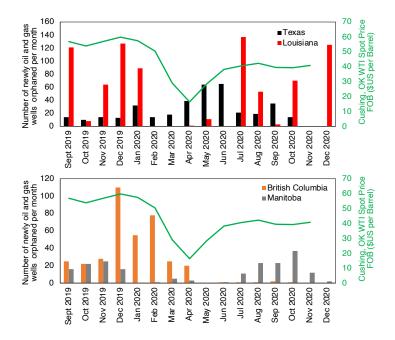


Figure S2. The number of oil and gas wells newly orphaned per month in states/provinces with more than 10 months of data from September 2019 to December 2020.

Data from state/provincial orphaned well lists or statuses in state/provincial oil and gas well databases: Texas Railroad Commission, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Manitoba Petroleum, and British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission. The number of wells orphaned per month is always greater than zero when the data is available. In other words, months indicating no wells orphaned per month are months with no data available. Monthly oil prices are obtained from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/rwtcM.htm).

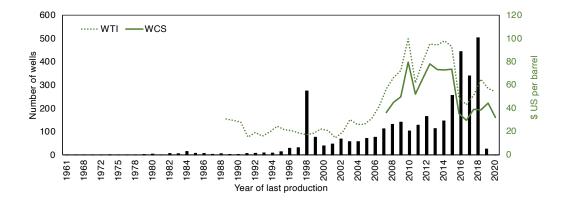


Figure S3. The number of orphaned wells in Alberta based on the year of last volumetric activity date, compared to oil price.

Data for 1961 to 2020 are obtained from the Alberta Orphan Well Association. We do not have data on when the wells became orphaned. The year in which the well became orphaned can be any year beginning from the year of last production to 2020. The monthly Western Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Western Canadian Select (WCS) oil prices are obtained from the Alberta Government Economic Dashboard from April 1983 to February 2020 for WTI and from January 2005 to February 2020 for WCS.

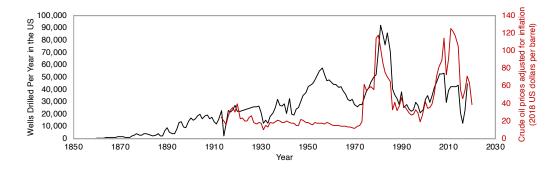


Figure S4. The number of historic and active oil and gas wells drilled per year in the US from 1859 to 2018 and crude oil prices adjusted for inflation (2018 US dollars per barrel) from 1861 to 2020.

The oil price is obtained from Our World In Data (OWID) for 1861 to 2018 and the U.S. Energy Information Administration from 2019 to 2020 (Brent Crude). We adjust the oil prices for inflation using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator to 2018 U.S. dollars.

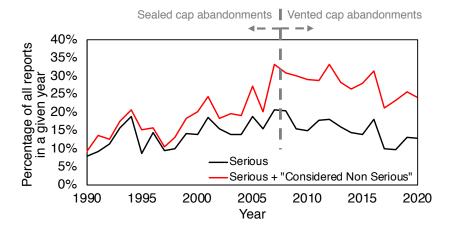


Figure S5. Reported leakage occurrences showing the impact of changing abandonment requirements from sealed caps to vented caps.

The data is from the Well Vent Flow/Gas Migration Report downloaded from the Alberta Energy Regulator (2020) and expands on Boyer (2015).

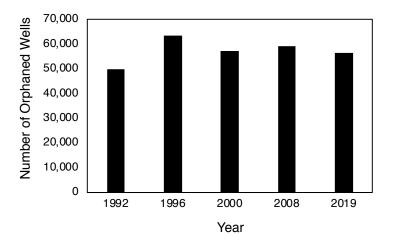


Figure S6. Number of orphaned oil and gas wells in state databases across the U.S.

The data is from IOGCC reports (IOGCC, 1992; 1996; 2000; 2008; 2009; 2019).

Table S2. List of oil and gas companies filing for receivership or bankruptcy under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA) from 2018 to 2020 in Canada.

| Company | Filing date |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Cabot Energy | 6/30/2020 |
| Cequence Energy Ltd. (TSX:CQE) | 6/11/2020 |
| Q'Max Solutions | 5/28/2020 |
| Delphi Energy (TSX:DEE) | 4/14/2020 |
| Direct Oil & Gas Inc. | 2/28/2020 |
| Strategic Oil & Gas (TSX-V:SOG) | 1/28/2020 |
| Traverse Energy (TSX-V:TVL) | 12/6/2019 |
| Accel Canada | 11/22/2019 |
| Eagle Energy (TSX-V:EGL) | 11/19/2019 |
| Wolf Coulee Resources | 11/18/2019 |
| Kitnuma Petroleum and Kitnuma Proje | 11/5/2019 |
| Houston Oil & Gas | 10/29/2019 |
| ACCEL Energy | 10/21/2019 |
| Bellatrix Exploration (TSX:BXE) | 10/2/2019 |
| Bearstone Environmental Solutions | 8/6/2019 |
| Ajax Petroleum | 7/31/2019 |
| Petrocapita Oil and Gas | 6/11/2019 |
| Trident Exploration | 5/3/2019 |
| Patriot Equipment | 4/11/2019 |
| Strategic Oil & Gas (TSX-V:SOG) | 4/10/2019 |
| Dundee Energy Ltd | 3/29/2019 |
| Elcano Group | 2/26/2019 |
| Horseshoe Bay Resources | 1/9/2019 |
| R.I.I. North America | 11/29/2018 |
| Diagonal Oil & Gas | 8/24/2018 |
| Delfan Energy Resources | 7/10/2018 |
| The OpsMobil Group | 7/10/2018 |
| Mustang Well Services | 5/17/2018 |
| Clayton Construction | 5/8/2018 |
| Global Flow | 5/1/2018 |
| Requisite Energy Services | 4/24/2018 |
| Sequoia Resources Corporation | 3/23/2018 |
| Storm Rentals | 3/21/2018 |
| Sequoia Resources Corporation | 3/2/2018 |

Table S3. Number of historic and active oil and gas wells in the U.S. according to state databases.

| State Alabama | Drilled 17,167 | Active 6,970 | Plugged 4,987 | Source State of Alabama Oil and Gas Board- OGB GIS Data (https://www.gsa.state.al.us/ogb/wells) | Dec 18, 2020 | Date Accessed 2020-12-21 |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Alaballa | 17,107 | 0,570 | 4,567 | State of Alabama on and das board- odb dis bata (https://www.gsa.state.ai.us/ogb/weiis) | Dec 18, 2020 | 2020-12-21 |
| Alaska | 9,014 | 5,228 | 3,445 | Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/aogcc/Data.aspx) | | 2020-12-22 |
| Arizona | 1,015 | 28 | 7 | Arizona Oil and Gas Conservation Commission-Oil and Gas Well Viewer (http://welldata.azogcc.az.gov/) | | 2020-12-22 |
| Arkansas | 30,455 | 13,412 | 12,418 | Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission-Maps-GIS Data (https://gis.arkansas.gov/product/arkansas-oil-and-gas-wells/) | | 2020-12-22 |
| California | 226,730 | 87,892 | 121,496 | California Department of Conservation-All O&G Wells (https://secure.conservation.ca.gov/WellSearch) | Dec 22, 2020 | 2020-12-22 |
| Colorado | 116,080 | 39,141 | 24,526 | Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (https://cogcc.state.co.us/data2.html#/downloads) | Dec 22, 2020 | 2020-12-22 |
| Florida | 1,458 | 155 | 973 | Florida Department Of Environmental Protection-Oil and Gas Permit Database (https://floridadep.gov/water/oil-gas/content/oil-and-gas-permit-database) | July 10, 2020 | 2020-12-22 |
| Idaho | 25 | 8 | 13 | Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (http://welldata.ogcc.idaho.gov/) | Dec 22, 2020 | 2020-12-22 |
| Illinois | 159,063 | 51,016 | 47,045 | Illinois Geospatial Data Clearinghouse-Location Points from the ISGS Wells and Borings Database (http://clearinghouse.isgs.illinois.edu/data/geology/location-points-isgs-wells- and-borings-database) | Dec 22, 2020 | 2020-12-22 |
| Indiana | 64,825 | 35,015 | 26,057 | Indiana Geological and Water survey/Indiana University (https://igws.indiana.edu/pdms/WellSearch.cfm) | July 15, 2020 | 2021-01-03 |
| lowa | 21,093 | 6,216 | 14,877 | lowa Geodata-lowa Geological Survey Well Database (https://geodata.iowa.gov/datasets/iowadnr::all-wells?geometry= 108.461%2C39.035%2C-78.116%2C44.753) | April 18, 2018 | 2020-12-22 |
| Kansas | 477,706 | 159,374 | 148,726 | Kansas Geological Survey-Master list of oil and gas wells (http://www.kgs.ku.edu/PRS/petroDB.html#ASCII) | Dec 17, 2020 | 2020-12-22 |
| Kentucky | 140,260 | 76,291 | 46,141 | University of Kentucky/Kentucky Geological Survey (https://kgs.uky.edu/kgsweb/main.asp) | August 10, 2020 | 2020-12-22 |
| Louisiana | 235,805 | 38,245 | 157,927 | Louisiana Department of Natural Resources-SONRIS Interactive Maps Oil/Gas Wells and Data Portal (http://sonlite.dnr.state.la.us/pls/apex/f?p=108:2700:11268402984114::NO:2700::::) | Not specified | 2020-12-22 |
| Maryland | 184 | 10 | n/a | (https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=437d27c219604f61a8e 2573f20a0b89e) | | 2020-12-23 |
| Michigan | 82,965 | 16,592 | 1,459 | Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy-GeoWebFace FTP Site (https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3311_60700,00.html) | Dec 22, 2020 | 2020-12-23 |
| Mississippi | 31,309 | 6,440 | 23,786 | Mississipi State Oil and Gas Board (https://www.ogb.state.ms.us/wellsearch.php) | Not specified | 2020-12-23 |
| Missouri | 10,547 | 1,091 | 4,411 | Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Oil and Gas Council | June 2, 2020 | 2020-12-23 |
| Montana | 41,651 | 10,033 | 24,461 | (https://dnr.mo.gov/geology/geosrv/oilandgas.htm) Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation (http://www.bogc.dnrc.mt.gov/WebApps/DataMiner/Wells/Wells.aspx) | Dec 17, 2020 | 2020-12-23 |
| Nebraska | 21,442 | 2,110 | 5,507 | Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (http://www.nogcc.ne.gov/NOGCCPublications.aspx) | Dec 23, 2020 | 2020-12-23 |
| Nevada | 1,134 | n/a | 617 | Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology-Open Data: Oil and Gas Wells (http://www.nbmg.unr.edu/Oil&Gas/NVWellInfo.html) | May 7, 2020 | 2020-12-23 |
| New Mexico | 110,928 | 64,915 | 44,856 | State of New Mexico Oil and Gas Conservation Division (ftp://164.64.106.6/Public/OCD/OCD%20GIS%20Data/Shapefiles/) | Dec 21, 2020 | 2020-12-23 |
| New York | 42,556 | 11,895 | 20,001 | New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, FracTracker (https://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/1603.html) | Dec 23, 2020 | 2020-12-23 |
| North Dakota | 33,921 | 17,515 | 4,934 | North Dakota Oil and Gas Division (https://www.dmr.nd.gov/OaGIMS/viewer.htm) | Dec 21, 2020 | 2020-12-23 |
| Ohio | 241,309 | 65,232 | 72,833 | Ohio Department of Natural Resources (https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr- core/divisions/division-e-oilgas/div-oilgas/features/featured-content-3) | Dec 18, 2020 | 2020-12-23 |
| Oklahoma | 731,527 | 680,745 | 40,401 | Oklahoma Corporation Commission-Oil and Gas (http://www.occeweb.com/og/ogdatafiles2.htm) | Dec 31, 2010 | 2020-12-23 |
| Oregon | 544 | 92 | n/a | State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries-Oil and Gas Well Log Index (https://www.oregongeology.org/mlrr/oilgas-logs.htm) | Feb 12, 2020 | 2020-12-24 |
| Pennsylvania | 214,337 | 127,227 | 68,870 | DEP Office of Oil and Gas Management-Spud Data (Spud date ranges from January 1700 to July 7 2020) [https://www.dep.pa.gov/DataandTools/Reports/Oil%20and%20Gas%20Reports/Pages/d | Dec 24, 2020 | 2020-12-24 |
| South Dakota | 2,037 | 504 | 1,372 | efault.aspx) South Dakota Department of Environement and Natural Resources | Not specified | 2020-12-24 |
| Tennesse | 16,293 | 16,293 | n/a | (http://www.sdgs.usd.edu/SDOIL/oilgas_databases.aspx) Tennesse Department of Environment and Conservation (http://environment- | Nov 10, 2020 | 2020-12-24 |
| Texas | 1 22/ 722 | 206 110 | E22 000 | online.state.tn.us:8080/pls/enf_reports/f?p=9034:34300:0::N0:::) | Not specified | 2020-12-24 |
| Utah | 1,334,722 34,923 | 286,110 11,283 | 533,889 8,724 | Texas Railroad Commission (https://www.rrc.state.tx.us/oil-gas/research-and-statistics/) Utah Department of Natural Resources, Oil, Gas and Mining Division (https://www.rrc.state.tx.us/oil-gas/research/da-gas/da- | Dec 24, 2020 | 2020-12-24 |
| Virginia | 12,472 | 10,204 | 1,386 | (https://oilgas.ogm.utah.gov/oilgasweb/data-center/dc-main.xhtmli#online) Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy and Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (https://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dgoinquiry/frmmain.aspx) | Not specified | 2020-12-24 |
| Washington | 830 | 716 | 112 | Environmental Protection (https://www.amme.vrignia.gov/ggoinquiry/irmmain.aspx) Washington State Department of Natural Resources (https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs- and-services/geology/energy-mining-and-minerals/oil-and-gas-resources#more- information) | Feb, 2019 | 2020-12-24 |
| West Virginia | 129,207 | 66,919 | 45,782 | West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection GIS Server (https://tagis.dep.wv.gov/site/GISData) | Dec 24, 2020 | 2020-12-24 |
| Wyoming | 57,497 | 39,818 | 6,634 | (https://tegrs.uep.wv.gov/siteyufobata) Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (http://pipeline.wyo.gov/urecordsMenu.cfm?Skip=%27Y%27&oops=ID27881) | Dec 7, 2020 | 2020-12-24 |
| Total | 4,653,031 | 1 954 735 | 1,518,673 | | | |

The number of plugged wells in Texas (shown in orange) is estimated using the average ratio of plugged to drilled wells of 0.40.

Table S4. Number of historic and active oil and gas wells in Canadian provincial/territorial databases.

| Province / Territory | Drilled | Active | Plugged | Source | Last Updated | Date Accessed | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--|---------------|---------------|--|
| Alberta | 610,344 | 252,206 | 277,643 | Alberta Energy Regulator-ST37: List of wells in Alberta (https://www.aer.ca/providing-information/data-and-reports/statistical-reports/st37.html) | Dec 1, 2020 | 2020-12-29 | |
| British Columbia | 29,117 | 11,737 | 9,617 | British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission-Well Surface Hole Locations [BCOGC-44513] (https://www.bcogc.ca/data- reports/data-centre/) | Dec 29, 2020 | 2020-12-29 | |
| Manitoba | 10,485 | 6,125 | 4,070 | Manitoba Petroleum-GIS Map Gallery-Well Locations (http://www.manitoba.ca/iem/petroleum/reports/index.ht ml) | Oct 20, 2020 | 2020-12-29 | |
| New Brunswick | 790 | 0 | 790 | New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources - Borehole Database (https://www1.gnb.ca/0078/GeoscienceDatabase/Borehole/Search.asp) | July 18, 2016 | 2020-12-21 | |
| NWT | 871 | 2 | 770 | NWT Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations and Canada Energy Regulator (https://www.orogo.gov.nt.ca/en/resources?f%5B0%5D=field_resource_type%3A74) | Nov 12, 2019 | 2020-12-29 | |
| Nova Scotia | 125 | 0 | 115 | Nova Scotia Department of Energy Geoscience Map and Data- Onshore Petroleum Wells (https://energy.novascotia.ca/oil- and-gas/onshore/petroleum-resources/geoscience-data-and- maps) | Dec 9, 2020 | 2020-12-25 | |
| Ontario | 26,952 | 3,630 | 15,207 | Ontario Oil, Gas & Salt Library-Petroleum Well Data (http://www.ogsrlibrary.com/data_free_petroleum_ontario) | June 13, 2019 | 2020-12-21 | |
| PEI | 20 | 0 | 20 | PEI Transport Infrastructure and Energy-Oil and gas exploratory well logs (https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/transp ortation-infrastructure-and-energy/Oil-and-gas-exploration- prince-edward-island) | Nov 19, 2019 | 2020-12-21 | |
| Quebec | 909 | 108 | 614 | ArcGIS Home-Oil and gas wells in the Province of Quebec, Canada (https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=6eda0817bdb f405eafa55ce6c7f6398c) | July 7, 2014 | 2020-12-21 | |
| Saskatchewan | 107,864 | 39,584 | 40,135 | Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources -Mining and Petroleum GeoAtlas (https://gisappl.saskatchewan.ca/Html5Ext/index.html?view er=GeoAtlas) | Ongoing | 2020-12-21 | |
| Yukon | 76 | 0 | 64 | Government of Yukon Energy, Mines and resources- Yukon Well Listing (https://yukon.ca/en/doing- business/licensing/find-oil-and-gas-maps-and-data) | Dec 31, 2014 | 2020-12-21 | |
| Total | 787,553 | 313,392 | 349,045 | | | | |

Table S5. Change in the number of orphaned oil and gas wells in the U.S. from 2008 to 2019 (IOGCC, 2008; 2019).

| | IOGCC, 2008 | IOGCC, 2019 |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | |
| | Surveyed states in 2006 | Surveyed states in 2018 |
| | | - |
| State | Wait List | Documented Orphan Wells |
| Alabama | 0 | 3 |
| Alaska | 15 | 15 |
| Arizona | | 0 |
| Arkansas | 577 | 484 |
| Caliornia | 430 | 16 |
| Colorado | 45 | 275 |
| Florida | 17 | |
| Idaho | | 0 |
| Illinois | 3900 | 4253 |
| Indiana | 598 | 1028 |
| Kansas | 7271 | 5709 |
| Kentucky | 10600 | 13266 |
| Louisiana | 3183 | 3966 |
| Maryland | | 0 |
| Michigan | 100 | 98 |
| Mississippi | 49 | 18 |
| Missouri | 2000 | |
| Montana | 90 | 231 |
| Nebraska | 6 | 75 |
| New Mexico | 134 | 115 |
| New York | 4800 | 2000 |
| North Dakota | 4 | 0 |
| Ohio | 2089 | 910 |
| Oklahoma | 2089 | 1372 |
| Pennsylvania | 8700 | 8703 |
| Tennessee | | |
| Texas | 11220 | 6285 |
| Utah | 8 | 33 |
| Virginia | 37 | 10 |
| West Virginia | 1260 | 4646 |
| Wyoming | 0 | 3083 |
| Total | 59,222 | 56,594 |

Table S6. Plugging costs in terms of tonnes of carbon emissions avoided (USD per tonne CO_2e).

| | GWP_{100} | 25 | 25 | 25 | |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|--|
| Plugging | g Costs (USD per well) | \$1,000 | \$10,000 | \$100,000 | |
| Lifetime of Plug | Methane Flow Rate | | | | |
| (years) | (mg/hr/well) | USD per tonne CO₂e | | | |
| 20 | 1,000,000 | 0.2 | 2.3 | 23 | |
| | 100,000 | 2 | 23 | 228 | |
| | 10,000 | 23 | 228 | 2283 | |
| 50 | 1,000,000 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 9 | |
| | 100,000 | 1 | 9 | 91 | |
| | 10,000 | 9 | 91 | 913 | |
| 100 | 1,000,000 | 0.04 | 0.4 | 5 | |
| | 100,000 | 0.4 | 5 | 46 | |
| | 10,000 | 5 | 46 | 457 | |

Methane flow rates selected are based on measurements and are taken as the possible orders of magnitude of high methane-emitting wells (Kang et al., 2019; Williams et al., 2020). Plugging costs are the orders of magnitude of average plugging costs reported by states (IOGCC, 2009).