



Mahindra Roxors are modified for use underground in Saskatchewan mines at Universe Satellite Sales in Rocanville.

Universe providing Roxors for mining industry

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Rocanville's Universe Satellite Sales is filling a need for Saskatchewan potash mines—the company is providing vehicles to transport people underground at the massive potash mines at Rocanville and Esterhazy.

Owner Stan Langley says that as soon as he saw his first Roxor he knew the vehicle would work for the mines, and the vehicles are being modified in Rocanville to meet the precise needs of the mining industry.

"We have supplied other vehicles to work underground like the Kioti's, and I had been after the manufacturers to build a vehicle specifically for the mines, but they didn't because it costs a lot of money to design some for the mines," he says.

"A friend of mine wanted us to get into selling Roxors because he wanted to buy one, but we didn't really want to take on another line, and when he went and bought one in Alberta he came home and he says 'you got to come out and have a look at this.' We drove down there and had a look at it. As soon as I walked in the door I said 'holy, that is exactly what the mine needs.'

"So we went after the dealership, got it right away, and the first thing we did is we got a couple guys from the mine to come in and said 'if you could build a perfect mine vehicle, what would you do to this vehicle?'"

"The first thing they said was it was a little too high so you would need to get it lowered, which we did by changing out to smaller wheels. You would need all the lights for underground, and need the scrubbers for the exhaust. They said you need different bumpers because everyone is going to bump into the wall—they are going to bust the taillights and everything on it.

"So we just took all the notes, and then I got Scott Norton down who was involved in building some of the first mine vehicles when Sylvite was first doing it when he worked for Goodman's. (Sylvite of Canada first developed the Rocanville potash mine.)

"He designed the front and rear bumpers for us and he started making them for us and we got the first one down underground at Rocanville, and they like it. It hasn't been underground for a year yet and I think it has around 36,000 km on it."

Universe's modified Roxors are now underground at both Nutrien Rocanville and Mosaic Esterhazy mines.

"We've got five at Nutrien and one at Mosaic, and I'm sure we'll have more—it's just a matter of time," said Langley. "They are quite a bit less money than some of the other vehicles they are using. They've been really dependable. We've changed a

couple light bulbs and a speedometer and other than that they've been working really good."

How much customization goes into the vehicles?

"We put on the heavy duty front and rear bumpers, we change the batteries in them, and the ignition comes out of them. We put in a push button start and do away with the key on them," explains Langley.

"We put light bars on them. We put a scrubber system on the exhaust. We put on the tow hitch and now they can actually tow with them now, so we're actually putting electric brakes on them as well now. Plus they have all the warning lights on them, and we put the reflective tape on them. We do a fair bit of work to them to make them mine ready."

The bumpers come off to get the vehi-

cles down into the mine.

"The bumpers have to be off them when they put them down in Rocanville," said Langley. "They are exactly 144 inches if we take the bumpers and taillights off, which makes it really nice for them—they fit right in the man cage and down they go."

Langley said Roxor is 100 per cent behind his efforts to get the vehicles into the mines.

"Roxor is right behind us," he said. "They've actually had one of their guys from California, one guy from Edmonton and another guy from Ontario come out and they actually toured both Mosaic Esterhazy and Nutrien Rocanville underground and talked to the people that were running them and they just said 'Okay, what would you change if you could do anything to them?' and they had a couple ideas. We were actually supposed to meet a couple other guys. We are going to be going down to Detroit to meet with them and sit with the engineers and spend a couple days right at Roxor where they are building these things and talk to all their engineers, but Covid-19 came along, so that got put on hold."

Langley said he believes the potential for the vehicles is huge in the mining industry and other industries.

"The potential is huge," he said. "CP Rail is actually starting to use them in their yards. They are putting cabs and air conditioning in and they outlast the half tons because half tons are not meant for that type of terrain. There are some mines in B.C. that have taken them underground. We've had a lot of the dealers from the U.S. call and say 'what are you doing to these things to make them mine ready?' So I think the potential is really big because of the simple fact that we can probably do them for a third of the price of some of the bigger man carriers."

Langley said he sees lots of potential for more businesses in the region to develop products for the mining industry.

"There is probably lots of economic development potential around the mines. You just need to find out what they need. They are buying product from all over the world. This is the niche that I found, but I'm sure there are other things that businesses could provide locally for the mines. It's no different than agriculture. Everybody grows wheat and there is no reason why they couldn't be milling wheat around here and making flour, but we send it all away.

"I think there is lots of potential for different things around the mine. This is our niche and we're filling a need for the mining industry, and I think there's also potential for the farming industry because the ranchers are buying these things up like crazy."

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SPRING 2020 Mining, Energy & Manufacturing

CELEBRATING MINING WEEK: MAY 31 - JUNE 6, 2020

Tyranny oil should be treated like blood diamonds

Why would consumers treat tyranny oil differently than blood diamonds or clothing made by child labour?

One of the more bizarre reactions to bare facts came recently after a colleague and I analyzed oil-and-gas-producing countries and their degree of freedom—the Tyranny Index, as we labelled it.

Some argued such tracking is irrelevant because all that matters is the price per barrel.

The Tyranny Index matches worldwide oil and natural gas production data since 1980 with the type of government that rules over various countries. It uses rankings from a Washington, D.C.-based think-tank, Freedom House.

Critical freedoms measured by Freedom House include civil liberties, political pluralism, the rule of law, freedom of expression and belief, political rights, personal autonomy and individual rights.

After scoring each country, the group separates them into three broad categories: Free, Partly Free, Not Free.

We matched up the Freedom House rankings with energy-producing countries and the results were as expected: Saudi Arabia is ranked as Not Free, Canada is Free and Kuwait is Partly Free.

A fascinating aspect of the data is how much oil and gas is produced in autocracies, dictatorships and tyrannies in total, and also the trend lines over the decades.

For example, in 1980, 49 per cent of oil production was in countries ranked Not Free. That proportion dropped to 33 per cent by 1990, a decline explained in part by the opening of the Soviet Union and a change in its ranking from Not Free in 1980 to Partly Free 10 years later.

Also, some countries deemed Free were producing more oil. This was the case in Norway, where production soared to over 1.7 million barrels daily in 1990 from just 529,000 barrels a decade before.

By 2019, the proportion of oil produced by Not Free countries worldwide was 51 per cent.

The same dynamic is at play in natural gas production but the differences over the decades are stark.

In 1980, 36 per cent of natural gas came from Not Free countries. That dipped to just eight per cent by 1990, but rose to 19 per cent by 2000 and 45 per cent by 2010. As of 2017, the most recent year of available data, 49 per cent of natural gas production worldwide occurred in Not Free countries. The top five on that list are Russia, Iran, China, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

This matters for a variety of reasons:

- Oil and gas revenues can be used by tyrannies, autocracies and dictatorships to oppress their populations.
- Regime leaders can (and often do) siphon off profits for their own pockets—Venezuela is a prime example.
- Not Free regimes wield significant power over the supply of oil and natural gas exported to vulnerable populations. This occurred in 2009 when Russia cut natural gas supplies to Ukraine in mid-winter over a pricing dispute.
- Not Free nations can dramatically manipulate prices on the world market beyond what would occur in a normal economic boom or bust.
- This state-directed dynamic was obvious in February



Mark Milke

when Saudi Arabia's energy ministry directed Saudi Aramco to significantly raise production and flood the world market with oil.

When an autocracy or dictatorship has significant leverage over a product, other countries dependent on that product can be severely impacted.

In response to all this, some who consider themselves ethical suddenly retreat to the claim that tyranny-type measurements are irrelevant. All of a sudden, all that matters is the price.

There certainly can be limited options for some citizens, companies and governments in democracies when it comes to what might best be called tyranny oil or gas. Drivers

can't switch between Saudi and Saskatchewan gasoline at the pumps. And some refineries are set up for light Middle East oil and not heavy Canadian crude, for example.

However, choices by investors and governments are possible.

When so-called ethical investors don't treat tyranny-produced oil in the same manner they might a T-shirt made by child labourers in southeast Asia or blood diamonds mined with slave labour in Africa, they make a choice.

When politicians (be they federal, in British Columbia or Quebec) attack the energy sector or enact anti-oil and gas policy, they too make a choice.

Such governments could, at a minimum, stop making Canadian oil and gas extraction and exports difficult.

Some citizens in democracies glibly oppose oil and gas as if either can be replaced easily. They might instead think of oil and natural gas as ethical when it originates in Canada and akin to blood diamonds when it comes from tyrannies.

Mark Milke is executive director of research for the Canadian Energy Centre, an Alberta government corporation funded in part by carbon taxes, and is co-author with Lennie Kaplan of *The Tyranny Index for Oil and Gas*.

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Sask Energy and Resources minister sees bright future

World-Spectator editor Kevin Weedmark spoke with Saskatchewan Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre May 29 about the future of the energy and resource industries. The complete interview follows.

I just want to get your thoughts on—with the way the world is changing—what kind of future do you see for these industries?

It's a big question, but the answer is that the future looks bright. It has been a challenging time certainly, but next week (this week for readers!) is mining week as you know, and that is a good time to highlight our strength and resilience.

There have been short-term challenges of course, including liquidity challenges, but oil and gas and mining and forestry will recover.

Some mining operations of course have had to shut in, as you know, more so in order to protect workers, but other operations such as our potash mines have continued with enhanced safety protocols at this time.

In recent years we have to remember the growing diversification we've seen in the province in the mining sector, into diamonds for example, and nickel and copper. In recent years we have welcomed new mining operations in the province. We have some of the biggest diamond and gold labs right here in Saskatchewan, which I'm not sure enough people know about. We've got to get the word out about this and a world-renowned geological survey, more and more junior exploration companies, and I think what we can build on, and where that diversification is coming from, comes down to our regulatory environment which is very stable. We have very competitive royalty structures, and we have some incentives in place that have helped the sector. We have the PST exemption for exploratory and downhole drilling activity, we have the targeted mineral exploration incentive which supports the exploration for precious and base metals and diamonds. And so again, very positive buttresses for the sector.

And exploration expenditures, Kevin, in Saskatchewan, in 2019, were over \$200 million. There were more than \$2.3 billion in expenditures over the past decade. The mining industry in Saskatchewan generated \$7.4 billion dollars in sales in 2019, and over \$72.3 billion since 2010. So we have a great story to tell here in Saskatchewan. Yes it's a challenging time but as I say, we will come back strong.

And I see in a recent subsurface mineral rights public offering, there was



SASKATCHEWAN ENERGY AND RESOURCES MINISTER BRONWYN EYRE

quite a bit of interest in Lithium exploration in Southeast Saskatchewan. Do you think there is real potential for development of an industry there?

That's another one. And absolutely there's potential. I was reading an article yesterday that some of the COVID factors have maybe slowed that globally, market-wise a little bit, in terms of the EV (Electric vehicles that need lithium batteries). Absolutely, Lithium is another one, Rare earths is another one in Saskatchewan that we are certainly looking to foster. There is a lot of diversification happening and more possible in the future for sure.

What do you see as the biggest issues facing the potash industry in the province right now, and how do you see those being overcome?

Mines continue to operate with the safety precautions. There have been disruptions that have been caused by the pandemic and there have been market

challenges. The long-term fundamentals of the potash market remain strong and growth is absolutely expected to return in the sector generally. In 2019 we produced 12.6 metric tonnes of potash in Saskatchewan, the most of any country, about 30 per cent of the world total. And volumes remain strong, so I think that's positive. Potash though the years has gone through phases and that will continue, but long-term fundamentals are firmly in place.

Has the province taken a look at the regulatory and royalty structure around potash or is that pretty much set for the next little while?

That's set for the next little while. That would have to be part of a much more broad based look and there are no plans for that right now. We have to make sure stability above all reigns right now.

Oil is also a big part of our economy in Southeast Saskatchewan. What do you see as the future of the oil industry in

Saskatchewan?

Clearly there have been challenges—that's an understatement—over the last little while. Not only as a result of the pandemic, but the OPEC-Plus price war that will have an impact no question on barrels per day of oil and gas production and shut ins for the next few months, we hope not too long of course.

There has been a reduction of capital expenditures and with that a decline in and an anticipated decline in employment. This is very unfortunate of course and we've watched this very carefully. We were pleased to announce the support that we put forward waiving the administrative regulatory levy in April, lowering it by 50 per cent, deferring some other measures, reducing electricity charges, modifying some reporting and compliance requirements where possible without any impact on health or environmental safety. And we've talked about those relief measures before and we felt that was important at that time, and then last week as you know we brought forward the abandonment announcement and that's the \$400 million in federal support for abandoning inactive wells in the province.

We are doing that in phases, we wanted to make sure that we didn't overwhelm the system. It has been well received, the main focus with that of course is to get people working and get the service sector working and we expect that work to start to roll out in the coming weeks.

What kind of feedback have you had from the oil industry on those measures?

Very positive. I'm proud to say that I've heard in some quarters that it's regarded as the best program in Canada in terms of what we rolled out. Of course I might be accused of being slightly biased on that one but there have been good reviews, Kevin.

Another industry that's important around here is pipelines. We have 250 workers coming into the area in June to finish up the Line 3 surface remediation—projects like that have a big impact on our local economy. What do you see as the future for that industry? Can you see more pipelines being built in the future?

Well Enbridge line 3 we have obviously been strong supporters of that replacement project and all the export capacity that that project brings to our oil sector, that's absolutely critical.

Continued on page 37



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April oil and gas public offering raises \$1.7 million

Saskatchewan's April public offering of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights generated a total of \$1.7 million in revenue for the province.

This is the first of six oil and gas public offerings for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The Lloydminster and Kindersley areas generated the majority of the bid activity. The Lloydminster area brought in \$848,629.60 for 19 parcels totalling 2,169.132 hectares, while the Kindersley area brought in \$731,624.20 for 43 leases totalling 11,063.984 hectares.

Fourteen parcels, comprising 841.750 hectares in the

Lloydminster area, received a total bonus amount of \$628,982.18. These parcels are prospective for heavy oil in the Mannville Group.

Two of these parcels each received a bonus bid of \$182,450.61, or \$2,817.77/hectare, the highest bonus bid and dollars per hectare received on a parcel in this offering. Millennium Land (222) Ltd. and Millennium Land (333) Ltd. were the successful bidders on these two parcels, picking up one parcel each.

The scheduled date for the next public offering is this Tuesday, June 2.

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SPRING 2020 Mining, Energy & Manufacturing

CELEBRATING MINING WEEK: MAY 31 - JUNE 6, 2020

Carbon tax hike out of step

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has chosen to make life more expensive by increasing the federal carbon tax by 50 per cent amidst the COVID-19 economic and health crisis. Meanwhile, governments around the world are moving in the opposite direction because hiking taxes during a global pandemic is a bad idea.

Provinces have already tapped the breaks on their own carbon tax hikes.

British Columbia Premier John Horgan announced that he would not be going forward with his planned April 1 carbon tax hike. Instead of mirroring the federal carbon tax hike, Newfoundland and Labrador is maintaining its tax at \$20 per tonne. The price of carbon allowances in the Quebec-California cap and trade system have also fallen due to COVID-19 and the current macroeconomic realities.

The European Union's cap and trade scheme, which applies to 30 countries, has also seen its carbon tax rate drop significantly. For most of 2019 and early 2020, EU carbon prices traded around €25 per tonne before nosediving to around €15 per tonne in March. The EU's cap and trade carbon tax rate has fallen 32 per cent below its 2020 peak, according to the most recent data available on the ICAP Allowance Price Explorer. While the tax rate has increased since bottoming out, S&P Global Platts Analytics forecasts the COVID-19 shock keeping downward pressure on the cap and trade market.

Other countries are providing further carbon tax relief. The Norwegian government reduced its carbon tax rate on natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas to zero and will keep the rates below the pre-coronavirus level until 2024. Norway also deferred payments on various fuel taxes until June 18.

Estonia Finance Minister Martin Helme formally called for his country to consider leaving the EU's cap and trade carbon tax system to provide relief.

The prime minister later announced that Estonia would not seek to leave the EU's carbon tax system, but the Estonian government lowered the excise tax on electricity to the minimum allowed by the EU and lowered its excise tax on diesel, light and heavy fuel oil, shale oil and natural gas.

"Due to the economic downturn, both people's incomes and the revenue of companies are declining, but daily house-



Aaron Wudrick

hold expenses such as electricity or gas bills still need to be paid. To better cope with them, we are reducing excise duty rates on gas and electricity for two years," Helme explained.

Outside of the EU, the United Kingdom is saving its taxpayers between £15 and £20 million per year by walking back its plan to increase its carbon tax top-up, New Zealand's cap and trade tax rate has fallen by more than 20 per cent this year and South Africa pushed back carbon tax payments by three months.

Now more than ever, Canadian taxpayers need relief. With carbon tax burdens declining around the globe during the COVID-19 crisis, walking back the recent carbon tax hike should be a no-brainer for our federal government.

Aaron Wudrick is the Federal Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation



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Sask modernizes pipeline regulations

The Government of Saskatchewan has modernized and strengthened its regulatory oversight of oil and gas pipeline infrastructure in the province, with the proclamation of the Pipelines Amendment Act, 2019 (the Act).

"This is the culmination of several years work and delivers on our promise, made in 2017, to ensure that Saskatchewan citizens and our environment are protected to the highest standard," Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre said. "The introduction of substantial enhancements to our pipeline licensing system will also provide more efficiency and regulatory certainty for our oil and gas sector."

In recent years, the province has enhanced regulatory systems to monitor and review pipeline construction and operations, with more stringent inspection, investigation, penalty and audit powers.

The new Act and regulations will expand regulatory oversight to include retroactive licensing of approximately 80,000 flowlines across the province over the next four years and more stringent scrutiny of applications at higher-risk locations, such as waterways. With these changes, the Ministry of Energy and Resources has fully addressed all outstanding issues raised by the Provincial Auditor regarding the integrity and safety of pipelines in Sas-

katchewan.

This is the first system of its kind in Canada to adopt an entirely electronic registry of pipeline licensing and administration. The Act establishes a new module in the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS) for an Online license registry, similar to the Saskatchewan Land Titles Registry, which will issue and administer licenses for the oil, gas and mining sectors.

"In developing the pipeline regulatory framework, the Government of Saskatchewan worked to ensure both regulatory efficiency and predictability for operators," Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) Vice-President of Western Canada Operations, Brad Herald said. "The new pipeline module, with its Online licensing registry, highlights the province's commitment to monitoring and upholding the highest standards of safety for the public and the environment; standards that are also continuing priorities for industry."

The new system will also streamline the review of applications and reduce the time required for routine approvals. In addition, the introduction of administrative penalties will complete the overall compliance framework tied to pipeline regulation. The Pipelines Administration and Licensing Regulations are now in effect,

along with Directive PNG034: Saskatchewan Pipelines Code, which clarifies and

enhances requirements set out in previous regulations.



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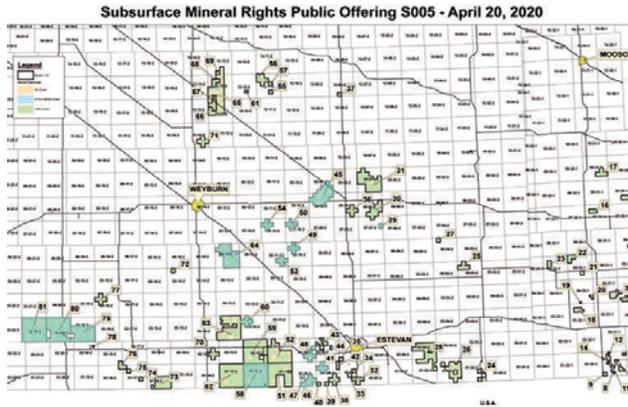
CELEBRATING MINING WEEK: MAY 31 - JUNE 6, 2020

Interest in Lithium deposits

The Government of Saskatchewan's Subsurface Mineral Crown Disposition Public Offering, held on Monday April 20 raised \$169,878 in revenue for the province. This is the first subsurface mineral offering of the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Eighty-one subsurface mineral permit blocks totalling 141,640.79 hectares were posted. Out of the 81 blocks posted, 16 received bonus bids and consisted of 51,917.960 hectares. Sun Valley Land Ltd. picked up nine permit blocks totalling 36,769.377 hectares for \$101,300.00; Deep Earth Energy Production Corporation picked up three permit blocks totalling 3,462.289 hectares for \$55,000.00; and Prairie Lithium Corporation picked up four permit blocks totalling 11,686.294 hectares for \$13,578.00.

The highest bid received in this offering was \$30,000.00 from Sun Valley Land Ltd. This 1,656.78 hectare permit block is located 18 kilometres south-west of Estevan and is pro-



spective for minerals, such as lithium.

The subsurface mineral public offering uses a transparent and competitive bidding system to issue subsurface mineral dispositions that grant the holder exploration and development rights for

potash and natural mineral salts occurring more than 60 metres below the land surface. These include boron, calcium, lithium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, bromine, chlorine, fluorine, iodine, nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur, and their compounds.

As the appeal for lithium is increasing in the global market, the province has seen a significant interest in Saskatchewan's lithium potential.

The next scheduled date for a subsurface mineral public offering in Saskatchewan is December 14, 2020.

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Canada world's largest potash producer

Potash is the common name given to a group of minerals and chemicals containing potassium (K), which is a basic nutrient for plants and an important element of fertilizer. Potash is mostly produced in the form of potassium chloride (KCl), but deposits can have different amounts of potassium, so we often measure and refer to it in terms of potassium oxide (K₂O) equivalence, for consistency.

- Potash is primarily used to produce fertilizer
- Canada is the world's largest producer and exporter of potash

• Canada has the world's largest potash reserves, with 1 billion tonnes of potash (potassium oxide equivalent) or about one-quarter of the world's reserves

Potash is primarily used as a fertilizer (approximately 95%) to support plant growth, increase crop yield and disease resistance, and intensify water preservation. Small quantities are used in the manufacturing of potassium-bearing chemicals such as:

- detergents
- ceramics
- pharmaceuticals

- water conditioners
 - alternatives to de-icing salt
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Sask launches new inactive well program

The Government of Saskatchewan is launching the Accelerated Site Closure Program (ASCP) for the abandonment and reclamation of inactive oil and gas wells and facilities to get Saskatchewan people back to work.

ASCP will access up to \$400 million, over two years, subject to the conclusion of an agreement with Canada, through the federal COVID-19 Economic Response Plan. It will be overseen by the Ministry of Energy and Resources and delivered in partnership with the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC), which has technical expertise to provide engineering and oversight work. The program will prioritize Saskatchewan-based service companies and support some 2,100 full-time equivalent jobs. Up to 8,000 inactive wells and facilities will be abandoned and reclaimed over the life of the program.

"We have worked hard to develop a common sense, administratively simple program that creates much-needed jobs in the struggling oil and gas sector," Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre said. "The ASCP will accelerate the retirement of wells and facilities, which have reached the end of their life cycle, and complete a substantial amount of environmentally important work in a short period of time. For that, we would like to acknowledge the support of the federal government."

The ASCP will be rolled out in several phases, with the funding component of the program administered by the SRC. Phase 1 will allocate up to \$100 million in funding to Saskatchewan service companies contracted to do abandonment and reclamation work.

"Working with Minister Eyre and the Government of Saskatchewan, we are creating needed jobs, cleaning up our environment, and supporting the hardworking people in our oil and gas sector," Canada's Minister of Natural Resources Seamus O'Regan said.

Under the ASCP, eligible licensees (operators) will use the Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS) to nomi-



nate inactive wells and facilities into the program. Each licensee will be assigned a portion of planned expenditures, based on their share of total provincial liabilities for inactive wells and facilities. Based on these nominations, the SRC will procure services from eligible service companies. All contracting for services will take place exclusively between eligible licensees and service companies. The SRC will provide direct funding, including an initial advance, to service companies for abandonment and reclamation work.

"We'd like to thank the Saskatchewan government for working to implement the ASCP in a timely manner," Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors President and CEO Mark Scholz said. "We are excited by the prospect of long-term jobs for Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors members who have been struggling to keep their employees working and their businesses viable."

"Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers appreciates the Government of Saskatchewan's efforts to design an Accelerated Site Closure Program that will help get Saskatchewan people back to work by focusing efforts on closure of inactive oil and natural gas sites," Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers Vice-President, Western Canada Operations Brad Herald said. "The initial phase of the program recognizes principles important to the sector including the efficient management of liability closure, while offering fair access to funds. We continue to support Saskatchewan's pragmatic approach to the program design while achieving government's objectives."

"Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) welcomes today's announcement that will support urgently needed jobs for the oilfield services sector that PSAC represents during this unprecedented downturn," PSAC Interim President and CEO Elizabeth Aquin said. "We are pleased that this funding aligns with PSAC's advocacy for a mechanism to close inactive wells and that the Government of Saskatchewan has supported this win-win solution that creates jobs while also providing environmental benefits. This program will also help to retain and expand key skills and expertise for Canada's responsible resource development and stewardship of the land."

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Sask Energy and Resources minister sees bright future

Continued from page 28

We've been keen to see all the remaining legal and regulatory hurdles in the U.S. be overcome so that the construction south of the border can be completed as soon as possible. As you know, the remediation plan for the current line 3 pipeline has been approved by the CER and so that process will result in remediation activity along the whole length of the existing pipeline in Saskatchewan.

In terms of future projects, we recently launched the Oil Infrastructure Investment Program which is to help facilitate the construction of any new or expanded pipeline across the province to move more Saskatchewan oil to market, leave the railways open to mining, manufacturing, and ag products.

We are looking at a number of projects and a number of proposals that are viable and could be viable, so we continue to do that because we have to look to what we can do here in the province when it comes to export. I think it's fair to say that things have stagnated federally, Energy East was cancelled, Northern Gateway was cancelled by the federal government.

There have been worrying comments recently by Mr. Biden about Keystone XL and how he would scrap all that good work and all the infrastructure that is already in place. So we have to continue to look at everything, we are doing that and just continue to advocate for the importance of pipelines and how responsibly put in place they are, how responsibly product is transported in this country, how safe they are and all of that. So that continues despite the federal regulatory and infrastructure challenges.

Do you think there's a lot of potential in Saskatchewan for further development in supplying these in-

dustries? We have an article in this section about a company in Rocanville that's bringing in Mahindra Roxors, customizing them for a mining application and supplying them to Nutrien and Mosaic. Do you think there is that much more potential for that kind of economic development around these industries within the province by meeting the needs of the supply chains for these industries?

Absolutely.

And I think our record when it comes to innovation and our companies' records in importing these innovative methods and technologies into their operations is astounding.

So absolutely as long we can continue to rock the economy here and recover as well and as quickly as we can, that will continue.

We have huge momentum in the province, and we do amazing things on all scales, on larger scales, we are top in class in the world when it comes to our mining and oil and gas operations and the innovation that we bring and companies bring into those operations. So absolutely. That story is one of many.

We do amazing things and there is amazing potential for growth in our sectors.

What is the most important thing the provincial government can do to ensure that these industries get where they need to go?

When it comes to export infrastructure, we need to make sure we look at everything we can do and to not give up hope by any means, but to foster the right climate for projects.

We have an excellent royalty regime, a very stable one,

a very transparent one across both our mining sectors and our oil and gas sectors.

We have to make sure that we keep things very stable in that regard because it has promoted and led to investment in this province.

We have tried to do common sense things around, for example, the targeted mineral exploration incentive to support exploration and diversification in the mining sector, so that has been very positive.

I think steady as she goes. But at the same time to look at everything we can do around R & D, around infrastructure, as we have done with the incentives we've brought in the last two years.

The Saskatchewan petroleum investment incentive, the export incentive that I mentioned, and just maintaining that very stable royalty structure so that there remains that stability around what we do and how companies can do what they do here.

I had conversations as recently as this week in the oil and gas space that the incentives we have in place around, for example, horizontal drilling, the nature of royalties and how they work in Saskatchewan, sliding scale, for example, built in, how world-class those are.

And two companies this week who I happened to speak to said they really believe they are the best in North America and that it is the best structure in North America for that investment.

So there is a predictable environment for companies what they have to do and how it works here. We can't ever do anything to hurt that or effect that and that stability.

That's what we need most of all right now going forward through what has been certainly a challenging time but we have to get to the other side and economic recovery.

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