



State Managed Cleanup Project

Site Remediation | Oil and Gas Division



The State Managed Cleanup Program (SMCU) utilizes the Oil & Gas Regulation and Cleanup (OGRC) funds in coordination with District Offices to clean up pollution of abandoned oil and gas sites.

Funding for the program comes from regulatory fees, permit fees and bond fees paid by the Oil and Gas industry.

An abandoned site becomes a candidate for state cleanup when the responsible party fails or refuses to take action or is unknown, deceased or bankrupt. Cleanup prioritization is based on public health, safety and the protection of the environment.

The SMCU oversees, coordinates and performs both assessments and cleanups of abandoned oil and gas facilities under the jurisdiction of the RRC.

The majority of cleanups typically involve removing waste from surface equipment (tank batteries, separators, etc.) and remediating affected soils at abandoned well sites. Cleanup activities often follow well plugging activities. Funds are also used to cleanup abandoned pits, reclamation facilities

and other types of sites such as abandoned natural gas processing plants, leaking pipelines, unidentified/illegal dumping of oil field waste, and emergency cleanups.

Sites may enter the program as orphaned wells are identified, through a referral from the Operator Cleanup Program or State Funded Plugging Program, or as from complaints from members of the public. When a new site enters the program, District Office Cleanup Coordinators perform a Site Assessment, detailing what pollution threats exist at each site. After the assessment phase, the SMCU team, along with its contractors, develop a work plan and a work order is issued to the contractor to complete the work under the oversight of the District Office Cleanup Coordinator (DOCC). The program also utilizes contracts with professional engineering firms to provide engineering design services and complex environmental investigations.

The SMCU currently consists of six staff members in Austin and 18 District Office Cleanup Coordinators. During Fiscal Year 2019, 431 sites entered the SMCU program, and 415 sites were assessed and remediated.

Email us at SR-SMCU@rrc.texas.gov for more information.