



## **Environmental Liabilities in the Energy Sector: First International Colloquium**

(October 2 – 3, 2025, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada)

### *Call For Paper Proposals*

The past few years have witnessed increasing public and academic attention being paid to the challenges associated with environmental liabilities in the energy sector. These liabilities are the future costs associated with closure activity: decommissioning (sometimes referred to as abandoning), remediating, and reclaiming energy assets and infrastructure. Much of this attention has been on fossil fuel assets (oil, gas, and coal) but renewable energy projects are now also part of the policy debate. The stakes are significant: total estimated liabilities range in the hundreds of billions of dollars in several jurisdictions, while many of those same jurisdictions appear to have secured only a fraction of the funds required to complete the required closure work. There is also uncertainty about the feasibility and effectiveness of current and proposed approaches to closure, especially in relation to non-conventional assets like Canada's oil sands mines. These and other factors confound efforts to accurately estimate the extent of potential liability and expose governments and the public to significant financial and environmental risks at a time of considerable uncertainty and disruption in the energy sector.

Consequently, the purpose of this first colloquium is to bring together and learn from scholars working in the energy closure liability space. We welcome paper proposals that set out to describe and evaluate liability management regimes in energy-producing jurisdictions, including (but not limited to) financial assurance instruments, approaches to liability estimation, timelines for closure activity, etc. We also welcome papers that approach the problem from a theoretical or doctrinal perspective. Finally, we welcome papers that apply an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing on related fields such as of economics, accounting, bankruptcy and insolvency, engineering, and remediation and reclamation science. This first colloquium is intended to establish an international state of knowledge and practice, with a view towards the publication of an edited collection or special journal issue.

**Dates and Location:** The colloquium will take place the evening of Thursday, October 2, and throughout Friday, October 3, 2025, at the University of Calgary Faculty of Law, located in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

**Submission Process:** Paper proposals (1/2 page) should be submitted to Martin Olszynski, Associate Professor and Chair in Energy, Resources, and Sustainability at the University of Calgary Faculty of Law ([molszyns@ucalgary.ca](mailto:molszyns@ucalgary.ca)) by April 30, 2025. Selected proposals will be confirmed by May 31, 2025, and a draft agenda, along with registration information, will be released shortly thereafter.

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