

Dirty, Derelict and Dangerous:

How Louisiana Can Clean Up
its Neglected Oil Wells



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Cover photo: Healthy Gulf/Scott Eustis

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Louisiana has more than 22,000 unplugged wells that no longer produce oil and gas,¹ in addition to more than 6,300 orphan wells deserted by their operators. More than a third of these wells are located in South Louisiana. Defunct wells threaten our safety, health and wildlife and could stand in the way of Louisiana's critical coastal-restoration efforts.

Oil and gas companies are legally required to plug their wells. But when companies walk away from their obligations, cleaning up these orphaned wells becomes the state's responsibility. At its current rate of plugging 125 wells per year, it'll take Louisiana's Department of Conservation and Energy (C&E) more than 50 years just to plug its current population of orphan wells.

This report uses public records and data to analyze how some of Louisiana's most problematic oil and gas policies are worsening its orphan well crisis.

Our analysis of C&E records found that:

- **Louisiana will use public resources to plug hundreds of wells that were once owned by some of the largest oil and gas corporations in the world.** We identified 724 orphan wells that were once operated by BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Occidental, Shell, and TotalEnergies, or by companies that these corporations acquired or merged with.
- **C&E failed to collect about 17% (\$1.6 million) of the Inactive Well Assessment fees owed in fiscal years 2025 and 2024.** A loophole in the state's well-plugging regulations allows operators to pay a nominal annual fee instead of plugging their inactive wells, which creates a perverse incentive for operators to leave wells inactive indefinitely. And while half of these funds go to plugging orphan wells, operators have failed to pay a significant percentage of these fees.
- **In fiscal years 2024 and 2025, C&E spent more than \$42.6 million to clean up 15 orphan well sites.** The most expensive project involved plugging six offshore wells at a cost of \$8.2 million.

Recommendation: We need a Countdown to Cleanup. Louisiana should set a goal of cleaning up all orphan and inactive oil and gas infrastructure within 10 years — and making sure that the corporations that profited from these wells are the ones to clean them up. The state can do this by (1) prioritizing cleanup of the thousands of wells that blight Louisiana's coast, particularly in places with high ecological, economic, and cultural importance like the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary; (2) pushing predecessors to plug the wells they once operated but have sold to other companies; and (3) closing loopholes that allow companies to delay decommissioning.

Decades of driller-friendly policies have gotten us into this mess, but it's not too late to get out of it. Policymakers must find the political will to put Louisiana's people and places first.





II. INTRODUCTION: THOUSANDS OF NEGLECTED WELLS LITTER LOUISIANA'S COAST.

Louisiana's waters, barrier islands, bays, estuaries and tidal rivers shape one of the nation's most ecologically rich landscapes, supporting an extraordinary diversity of plant and animal life, including endangered and threatened species of birds, turtles and whales.² The state's coastal wetlands protect its communities, cultures and industries by providing a critical buffer from storm surges³ and sequestering climate-warming carbon.⁴

Yet thousands of derelict oil and gas wells blight Louisiana's coast. As of October 2026, the number of inactive wells has grown to 22,087 while the number of orphan wells has skyrocketed to 6,331⁵—part of a long-term trend of ballooning orphan liability for the state.⁶ By comparison, Louisiana State University's (LSU) Center for Energy Studies reported approximately 19,500 inactive wells and 4,900 orphan wells across the state as of March 2025.⁷ This corroded infrastructure creates substantial risks to coastal ecosystems and wildlife from oil spills, methane leaks, toxic chemicals and heavy metals.

Despite the state's work to plug orphan wells over the last three decades, Louisiana has never been able to reduce its orphan well population because the number of wells orphaned each year far outpaces the state's annual rate of plugging.⁸ The longer a well sits idle, the less likely it is to produce oil and gas in the future — and the more likely it is to be orphaned. After just five years of inactivity, idle wells in federal Gulf waters have a less than 4% chance of returning to production.⁹ The same is likely true of wells in state waters.¹⁰ According to a 2024 report by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, about 60% of the state's inactive wells had been idle for more than five years, and 13% had been idle for more than 30 years.¹¹

A large number of the state's oldest idle wells are concentrated on Southeast Louisiana's coast.¹² A 2023 analysis in Nature Energy identified 7,583 inactive wells located in Louisiana's offshore and inland water locations.¹³ This number may be an undercount, as a recent investigation by the Times-Picayune/Advocate identified 3,654 wells that were once drilled on land or in wetlands but are now in open water due to coastal land loss.¹⁴ For example, C&E's records identify all of the wells in Plaquemines Parish's Garden Island Bay oilfield as being onshore,¹⁵ even though these wells are now submerged.¹⁶ Additionally, C&E does not track offshore platforms. True Transition, Healthy Gulf, and SkyTruth have identified more than 1,100 offshore structures in Louisiana waters using satellite data.¹⁷

Louisiana could lose 75% of its remaining coastal wetlands by 2070 if it doesn't take significant steps to reduce climate-heating pollution and restore coastal ecosystems damaged by decades of oil and gas drilling.¹⁸ The oil and gas infrastructure that litters Louisiana's coast has the potential to undermine the state's coastal-restoration goals by delaying projects, increasing project costs, and limiting project parameters. For example, in 2020 the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority ended a decades-long effort to restore East Timbalier Island because too much abandoned oil infrastructure got in its way, even after the state had sunk nearly \$20 million into the project.¹⁹

III. DETAILED FINDINGS

Once the oil majors’ wells, now a major burden: Hundreds of orphan wells are associated with large oil corporations.

Some of Louisiana’s inactive wells are nearly as old as the industry itself. Over the decades, these wells have passed through the hands of many oil companies — all of which, if they still exist, could be held responsible for well-plugging before the state resorts to declaring the wells orphaned.²⁰

Instead, public resources are being used to clean up orphan wells, even those wells that built the fortunes of the largest oil corporations in the world. For example, in 2025, the state plugged 10 orphan oil and gas wells in the Rabbit Island oilfield in the waters off Iberia Parish.²¹ All of these wells were once owned by Texaco, considered “the major force in the exploration and development of the oil and gas fields of coastal Louisiana.”²² Texaco is now a subsidiary of Chevron Corporation.²³

Our analysis found that 724 of Louisiana’s current orphan wells were once owed by BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Occidental, Shell, or TotalEnergies, or a company that these corporations acquired or succeeded.

The corporations that profited from these wells should be the ones to plug them. But C&E doesn’t have a system for ordering former owners to plug inactive wells *before* declaring them orphaned. And Louisiana’s Oilfield Site Restoration Law discourages this by directing C&E to declare a well orphaned based only on whether the current owner is willing and able to plug the well, even if the well’s prior operators are solvent.²⁴ Once a well is formally orphaned, the burden of plugging falls to the public, and C&E’s ability to recover cleanup costs from the well’s former owners is limited.²⁵

Perverse Incentives: Louisiana’s inactive well fees discourage timely well-plugging.

Oil companies are legally required to plug their wells. But Louisiana’s regulations allow companies to avoid plugging in exchange for a nominal annual fee ranging from \$125 to \$750, depending on the depth of the well and length if inactivity.²⁶ This loophole, which applies even for wells that have no future utility, creates a financial incentive for oil companies put off well-plugging indefinitely.

Our analysis of C&E data from 2024 and 2025 shows that about 11,000 wells operated by 516 oil and gas companies were subject to this Inactive Well Assessment each year, and C&E was unable to collect about 17% of the fees it invoiced.²⁷ The agency also allowed dozens of operators to use payment plans instead of paying in full.

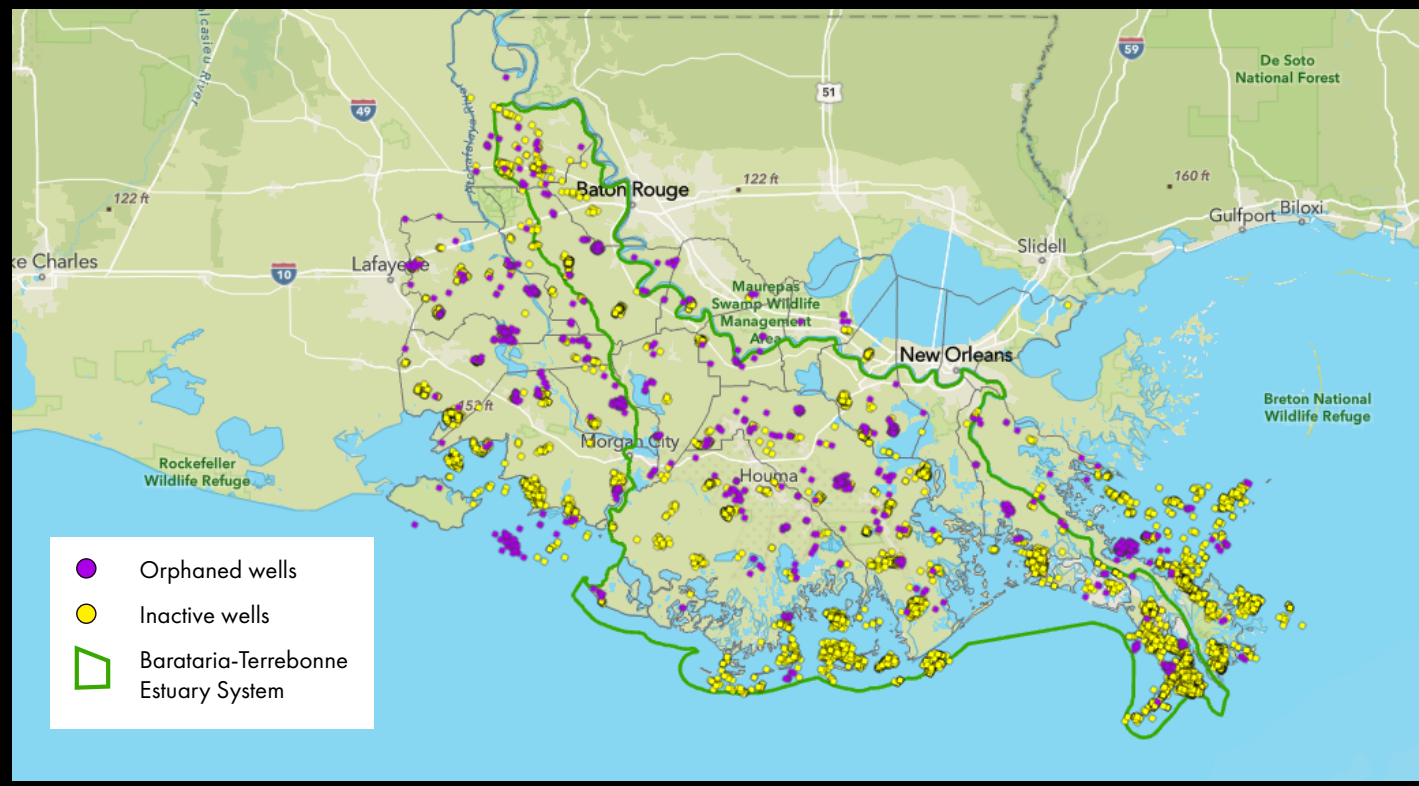
Year	Well Count	Total Invoiced	Total Collected	Total uncollected	Average Invoiced Per Well
2025	11,767	\$4,939,643.50	\$3,971,028.29	\$968,615.21	\$419.79
2024	10,494	\$4,851,687.50	\$4,157,305.00	\$694,382.5	\$462.33
Total		\$9,791,331.00	\$8,128,333.29	\$1,662,997.71	

A portion of the Inactive Well Assessment goes to Louisiana’s Oilfield Site Restoration Fund, which the state uses to plug orphan wells when oil companies default on their legal obligations.²⁸ This account is already chronically underfunded,²⁹ but attempting to increase funding by encouraging operators to delay decommissioning will only lead to more orphan wells.

Case Study: The Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary

Spanning 12 parishes and providing a critical buffer to storm surges, the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary is the fastest disappearing landmass on earth. It is also important stopover habitat for millions of migratory birds, and provides essential breeding, feeding, and nursery grounds for commercially important fish, crabs, shrimp and oysters.

Our analysis found that there are 3,231 inactive wells and 509 orphan wells located within the boundaries of the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary. Approximately 250 of the estuary's defunct wells were orphaned (52 wells) or became inactive (197 wells) before the turn of this century. The estuary's oldest inactive wells were drilled in the 1930s, with 865 inactive wells and 131 orphan wells drilled before 1960.³⁰



How much will it cost to clean up the coast?

The short answer is we don't really know, and we need answers now.

In 2025 LSU researchers estimated it would cost about \$860 million to plug the current population of orphan and idle wells in northern Louisiana, at an average of over \$40,000 per well.³¹ But this analysis excludes the deeper and more complicated wells in South Louisiana, which represent 41% of the state's orphan and idle well population.³²

The cost of plugging these coastal and offshore wells may exceed that of onshore wells by orders of magnitude. A 2023 peer-reviewed study estimated that it would cost \$2 billion to plug about 7,500 coastal wells in Louisiana, which averages about \$267,000 per well.³³

Our analysis of Louisiana's use of Oilfield Site Restoration Fund money shows that in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 the state spent \$43,522,869.91 to cleanup 15 orphan well sites (\$42,650,791.23) and on assessments (\$872,078.68).³⁴ Eight of the 15 decommissioning projects carried out by the state were located in coastal parishes and involved removing offshore platforms or plugging wells in offshore or water locations. The most expensive project cost \$8.2 million to plug just six offshore wells, averaging about \$1.4 million per well.

Coastal Parish Orphan Well Plugging Costs, Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025

Cost	Description of Work	Parish
\$8,237,134.07	Plug 6 offshore wells ³⁵	Cameron Parish
\$7,635,827.88	Plug 13 wells, 7 of which are in water, and remove 3 production platforms ³⁶	Terrebonne Parish
\$4,990,926.25	Plug 3 wells, 2 of which are offshore and 1 is in water, and remove 1 platform and satellite facility ³⁷	Jefferson Parish
\$4,365,165.05	Plug 17 wells located in water and remove 1 platform and satellite facility ³⁸	Lafourche Parish
\$3,669,057.48	Plug 7 wells and remove 1 platform in Breton Sound ³⁹	Plaquemines Parish
\$618,687.45	Remove 1 offshore satellite facility ⁴⁰	Lafourche Parish
\$443,831.00	Details unknown, project located in the Lafitte Oilfield ⁴¹	Jefferson Parish
\$416,225.00	Plug 6 shoreline wells ⁴²	Lafourche and Plaquemines Parishes
Total: \$30,376,854.18	Plug 52 wells and remove 7 platforms and structures	

Our analysis also found that of the 643 orphan wells plugged using federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds as of April 2026, only one well was coastal.⁴³ This well cost more than \$964,000 to plug and was the most expensive well on the list by a longshot.

In 2026 the Louisiana House of Representatives passed House Resolution No. 310 directing C&E to produce a written report on the state's liability for the decommissioning of orphan, inactive, and low-production wells. The report must include a breakdown of the estimated cost to decommission offshore wells versus onshore wells.



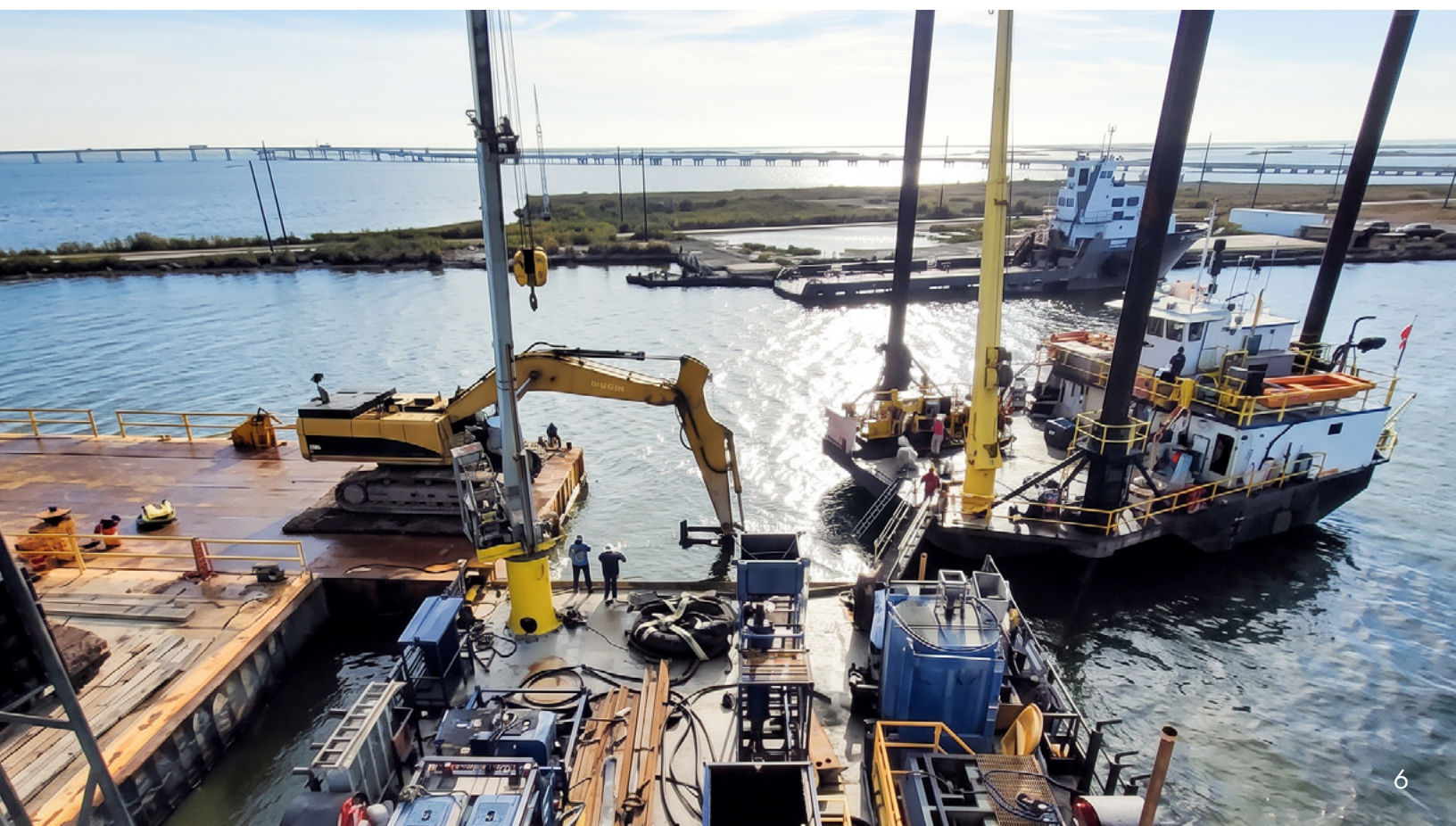
C&E's Oilfield Site Restoration Program contractors work on an orphaned well site in the Humphreys Field in Terrebonne Parish. Photo by Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy.

IV. RECOMMENDATION: THE COUNTDOWN TO CLEANUP SHOULD START NOW.

The oil and gas industry must be held accountable for repairing its damage to Louisiana's coast. We need a Countdown to Cleanup, with the goal of getting all inactive and orphan wells plugged within the next 10 years. Three principles should guide these changes:

- 1. Set priorities.** To make way for coastal restoration and clean up the highest-risk wells, Louisiana should prioritize plugging offshore and coastal wells. Focusing on oilfields rather than on wells alone could also make cleanup more efficient and less costly. C&E should coordinate with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority in developing this plan.
- 2. Pursue predecessors.** The companies that profited from Louisiana's coast should be the ones to clean it up. Before C&E resorts to declaring a well orphaned because the current operator has defaulted, it should first order former operators to do the plugging. State laws and policies that make it easy for oil companies to avoid their plugging obligations should be taken off the books.
- 3. Close loopholes and strengthen standards.** C&E should close the loophole that allows oil companies to pay an inactive well fee instead of plugging wells with no future utility. For wells with purported future utility, operators should have to provide proof of their plans to resume operations and should not be allowed to leave wells inactive for more than four years. The financial security required to guarantee a company's decommissioning obligations should reflect the true cost of plugging each well, and the state should not subsidize companies by providing state-funded alternatives to operators who cannot secure a bond. The State Mineral and Energy Board should bar transfers of state leases to or from companies with overdue well-plugging obligations.

*C&E's Oilfield Site Restoration (OSR) Program contractors plugging an orphaned well.
Photo by Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy.*



V. METHODOLOGY

To estimate how many orphan wells are associated with the oil majors, we downloaded Louisiana's Orphaned Wellsite list and the Well History data set from C&E's SONRIS data portal. We then developed a script to compile the operator history for each of the 6,346 wells on the orphaned wellsite list. Next, we used the National Association of Division Order Analysts' *Mergers and Acquisitions 2020 Handbook* to develop a list of predecessors and acquisitions associated with the major oil companies BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Occidental, Shell, and TotalEnergies. We then ran a script to identify orphan wells with at least one historical operator that matched a company on this list. We identified 724 unique wells associated with oil majors using this process.

To calculate Louisiana's population of inactive wells, we used the Well Information search on C&E's SONRIS data portal. We then filtered the data by the following Well Status Codes: 8 (Inactive Injection Well (Commercial or Other)), 16 (Multiple Completed/PA-35 Well), 18 (Temporarily Abandoned Well), 19 (Inactive Well, No Responsible Party), 20 (PA-35 Temporary Inactive Well to be Omitted) from Production Report), 31 (Shut-In Dry Hole - Future Utility), 32 (Shut-in Dry Hole - No Future Utility), 33 (Shut-In Productive - Future Utility), 34 (Shut-In Productive - No Future Utility), 35 (Plugged Back - No Perforations - No LUW), 36 (Shut-in Waiting on Pipeline), 37 (Shut-in Waiting on Market). To calculate the number of orphaned wells, we filtered the data by Well Status Codes 23 (Act 404 Orphan Well - Eng) and 26(Act 404 Orphan Well – Injection and Mining). C&E recently added a well-status chart to its website.⁴⁴ Because this chart is updated in real time, its numbers may be different from the numbers in this report.

To analyze the Inactive Well Assessment data, we used the Louisiana Public Records Law to obtain a spreadsheet showing how much money C&E had invoiced and collected for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 in accordance with LAC 43:XIX.137(A)(1)(b). Using this data, we calculated the total amount of fees assessed, total amount collected, and total amount uncollected. We also obtained spreadsheets showing how many inactive wells were subject to the Inactive Well Assessment.

To analyze how much money Louisiana has spent on plugging orphan wells, we used the Louisiana Public Records Law to request records demonstrating which orphan wells were plugged, the cost of plugging each well, and the source(s) of funding to plug each well (e.g., Oilfield Site Restoration funds, federal IJA funds, or other funding sources), for fiscal years 2023–2034 and 2024–2025. C&E provided us with a spreadsheet of wells plugged using federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds and a spreadsheet of wells plugged using Oilfield Site Restoration Fund money. For the Oilfield Site Restoration Fund wells, we gathered project details by using the project number listed in the spreadsheet to locate the bid packages for each project on C&E's SONRIS data portal or the Department of Energy Natural Resources' archived Oilfield Site Restoration Bid Proposals page.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ La. Dep't of Cons. & Energy, Inactive Wells, https://sonlite.dnr.state.la.us/ords/r/sonris_pub/sonris_data_portal/well-profile?p9000_status_list=18:19:20:31:32:33:34:35:36:37:80&clear=9000,CIR&session=0 (last visited Oct. 7, 2026).
- ² See generally La. Dep't of Wildlife & Fisheries, *The Natural Communities of Louisiana* (2009), https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Conservation/Protecting_Wildlife_Diversity/Files/natural_communities_of_louisiana.pdf.
- ³ Barbier, Edward, et al., *The Value of Wetlands in Protecting Southeast Louisiana from Hurricane Storm Surges*, PLoS ONE (2013), <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0058715>.
- ⁴ Baustian, Melissa, et al., *Climate change mitigation potential of Louisiana's coastal area: Current estimates and future projections*, 33 Ecol. Apps. (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.2847>.
- ⁵ La. Dep't of Cons. & Energy, Orphan Wellsite List, https://sonlite.dnr.state.la.us/ords/r/sonris_pub/sonris_data_portal/orphan-wellsite-list?clear=12050 (last visited Oct. 7, 2026).
- ⁶ La. Legis. Auditor, *Progress Report: State Efforts to Address Orphaned Oil Wells* 1, 9 (Oct. 24, 2024), [https://app2.la.state.la.us/publicreports.nsf/0/fd253aa20b74174d86258bbf00730b5c/\\$file/00006296a.pdf](https://app2.la.state.la.us/publicreports.nsf/0/fd253aa20b74174d86258bbf00730b5c/$file/00006296a.pdf).
- ⁷ Upton Jr., Gregory B., et al., LSU Ctr. for Energy Studs., *Orphan and Idle Wells in Louisiana* 6, 33 (2025), <https://www.lsu.edu/ces/publications/2025/orphan-and-idle-wells-in-louisiana-df-pages.pdf>; see also Lubben, Alex, *Louisiana's abandoned oil wells surge to record numbers. Is the bill coming due?* Times Picayune/The Advocate (Apr. 5, 2026), https://www.nola.com/news/business/louisiana-orphaned-oil-wells-record-high/article_8793806e-86a1-47af-a1ab-e629aec3a8b8.html (reporting that the state had more than 6,400 orphan wells as of March 2026, an increase of more than 2,100 wells since January 2025).
- ⁸ Upton, et al., 2023, *supra*, at 10; La. Legis. Auditor 2024, *supra*, at 1, 9.
- ⁹ Agerton, Mark, et al., *Financial liabilities and environmental implications of unplugged wells for the Gulf of Mexico and coastal waters*, 8 Nature Energy 536, 542 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41560-023-01248-1>.
- ¹⁰ Agerton, et al., 2023, *supra*, at 542.
- ¹¹ La. Legis. Auditor 2024, *supra*, at 15.
- ¹² La. Legis. Auditor 2024, *supra*, at 15.
- ¹³ Agerton, et al., 2023, *supra*, at 541, Tbl.5; but see La. Legis. Auditor 2024, *supra*, at 14 (reporting that 5,600 (25.6%) inactive wells were located in offshore or inland water locations as of 2023).
- ¹⁴ Lubben, Alex, *Louisiana drilled more coastal oil wells than any other state. Thousands have sunk in the Gulf*, Times Picayune/The Advocate (Sept. 19, 2025), https://www.nola.com/news/environment/louisiana-sunken-oil-wells-boat-hazards/article_7f44f128-57cd-4952-9565-1056703dfe63.html; Lubben, Alex, *Oil Wells Scroll Map*, https://alexlubben.github.io/oil_wells_scroll_map/ (last visited Oct. 7, 2026).
- ¹⁵ La. Dep't of Cons. & Energy, Well Information, https://sonlite.dnr.state.la.us/ords/r/sonris_pub/sonris_data_portal/well-information?clear=2700 (retrieved Oct. 7, 2026).
- ¹⁶ See, e.g., C&E Lease Facility Inspection Report for Spectrum OpCo LLC Well No. 137761 at 2 (June 24, 2026), <https://sonlite.dnr.state.la.us/dnrservices/redirectUrl.jsp?dDocname=23345697&showInline=True>.
- ¹⁷ Biven, Megan, et al., *Louisiana's Forgotten Fleet* 3, 11 (June 2025), https://www.truetransition.org/files/ugd/0ad80c_dc45a7c0d92e45cebe82e9eb14260134.pdf.
- ¹⁸ Li, Guangong, et al., *Real-world time-travel experiment shows ecosystem collapse due to anthropogenic climate change*, 15 Nature Comms. 1 (2024), <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-024-45487-6>; Törnqvist, Torbjörn E., et al., *Climate-Driven Depopulation and Adaptation Realities in America's Coastal Ground Zero*, 9 Nature Sustainability 6, 1 (2026), <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-026-01820-z>.
- ¹⁹ Baurick, Tristan, *'It's too far gone': Old oil wells and pipelines doom big effort to save this Louisiana island*, Times Picayune/The Advocate (May 26, 2020), https://www.nola.com/news/environment/its-too-far-gone-old-oil-wells-and-pipelines-doom-big-effort-to-save-this/article_7c9bfb34-9c6b-11ea-819e-d32606b97a31.html.
- ²⁰ Louisiana law authorizes C&E to hold any well "owner" responsible for plugging. La. R.S. 30:4(C)(1)(a)(i), (iii), (b). An "owner" is a "person, including operators and producers acting on behalf of the person, who has or had the right to drill into and to produce from a pool and to appropriate the production either for himself or for others." *Id.* 30:3(11) (emphasis added).

- ²¹ See La. Dep't of Energy and Nat. Res., Bid Proposal 431-PA25-006 (2024), <https://sonlite.dnr.state.la.us/dnrservices/redirectUrl.jsp?dDocname=14927451&showInline=True> (well serial nos. 51565, 54685 & 128875, 56357, 103618, 112112, 115446 & 115723, 118151 – 118894).
- ²² Sell, James L. & McGuire, Tom, *History of the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry in Southern Louisiana*, Vol. IV: Terrebonne Parish, OCS Study MMS 2008-045, 1 (Sept. 2008), <https://biotech.law.lsu.edu/blog/vol4.pdf>.
- ²³ For an excellent visual history of the oil industry's damage coastal Louisiana, including an explanation of corporate succession, visit Imani Jacqueline Brown's followtheoil.org.
- ²⁴ See La. R.S. 30:91(A), 30:82(11).
- ²⁵ La. R.S. 30:93(A)(1)–(3).
- ²⁶ LAC 43:XIX.137(A)(1)(b), (A)(2)(b).
- ²⁷ La. Dep't of Cons. & Energy, Inactive Well Assessment Records (received July 29, 2026), available at https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/foia-search/browse?bp=STATE%20PUBLIC%20RECORDS%20FLOUISIANA%20FLDCE%206-29-26%20%28Inactive%20Well%20Fees%29%2F2026.07.29%20EM_1.
- ²⁸ La. R.S. 30:86(D)(7).
- ²⁹ See La. Legis. Auditor 2024, *supra*, at 10 (but note that the funding cap discussed was repealed by Act No. 458 (2025)).
- ³⁰ Note that sixteen orphan wells have spud dates listed in the 2040s. Similarly, 155 inactive wells have spud dates listed in the 2030s and 2040s. Because these wells also have the lowest serial numbers, we assume that this is a data entry error and the correct spud dates are in the 1930s and 1940s.
- ³¹ Upton, et al., 2025, *supra*, at 6, 33.
- ³² Upton, et al., 2025, *supra*, at 33, 20, iv.
- ³³ Agerton, et al., 2023, *supra*, at 541.
- ³⁴ La. Dep't of Cons. & Energy, FY24 & 25 OSR Funded Projects Spreadsheet (received Oct. 21, 2026).
- ³⁵ La. Dep't of Energy and Nat. Res., Bid Proposal 431-PA23-006 (2022), <https://sonlite.dnr.state.la.us/dnrservices/redirectUrl.jsp?dDocname=14195831&showInline=True>.
- ³⁶ La. Dep't of Energy and Nat. Res., Bid Proposal 431-PA24-006 (2023), https://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/OC/eng_div/OSR/PA24-006_Humphrey_Field.pdf.
- ³⁷ La. Dep't of Energy and Nat. Res., Bid Proposal 431-PA24-003 (2023), <https://sonlite.dnr.state.la.us/dnrservices/redirectUrl.jsp?dDocname=14452546&showInline=True>.
- ³⁸ La. Dep't of Energy and Nat. Res., Bid Proposal 431-PA25-005 (2024), https://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/OC/eng_div/OSR/25-005.pdf.
- ³⁹ La. Dep't of Energy and Nat. Res., Bid Proposal 431-PA24-005 (2023), https://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/OC/eng_div/OSR/PA24_005_BretonSoundV3.pdf.
- ⁴⁰ La. Dep't of Energy and Nat. Res., Bid Proposal 431-PA25-003 (2024), https://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/OC/eng_div/OSR/25-003.pdf.
- ⁴¹ We were unable to locate the bid proposal for this project. See La. Dep't of Energy and Nat. Res., Oilfield Site Restoration Bid Proposals, Bid Proposal No. 431-PA24-001, <https://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/page/oilfield-site-restoration-bid-proposals>.
- ⁴² La. Dep't of Energy and Nat. Res., Bid Proposal 431-PA25-002 (2024), https://www.dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/OC/eng_div/OSR/25-002.pdf.
- ⁴³ La. Dep't of Cons. & Energy, IJA Quarterly Report Spreadsheet (received Aug. 5, 2026), available at <https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/foia-search/browse?bp=STATE%20PUBLIC%20RECORDS%20FLOUISIANA%20FLDCE%20PRR%207-16-26%20%28Louisiana%20Orphan%20Well%20Plugging%20Data%29>. Note that this spreadsheet indicates that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for plugging several additional orphaned wells in South Louisiana, including in Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge, Delta National Wildlife Refuge, and Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. The spreadsheet does not indicate that these wells have been plugged or include cost information.
- ⁴⁴ La. Dep't of Cons. & Energy, Oilfield Site Restoration Program, <https://www.dce.louisiana.gov/page/oilfield-site-restoration> (last visited Oct. 7, 2026).