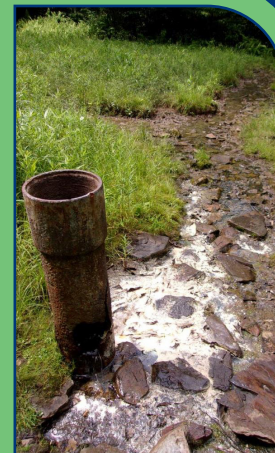
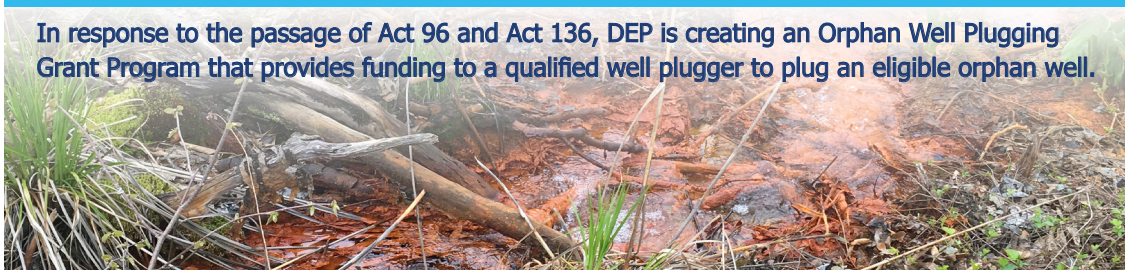


# Orphan Well Plugging Grant Program

In response to the passage of Act 96 and Act 136, DEP is creating an Orphan Well Plugging Grant Program that provides funding to a qualified well plunger to plug an eligible orphan well.



This grant program provides up to:

- \$40,000 to a Qualified Well Plunger for every eligible well plugged that is an orphan well of a depth of 3,000 feet or less or the actual cost to plug the well, whichever is less.
- \$70,000 to a Qualified Well Plunger for every eligible well plugged that is an orphan well of a depth greater than 3,000 feet or the actual cost to plug the well, whichever is less.

A “**Qualified Well Plunger**” is a “person who demonstrates access to equipment, materials, resources and services to plug wells in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements.”

An “**Orphan Well**” as defined in Section 3203 of the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Act is “a well abandoned prior to April 18, 1985 that has not been affected or operated by the present owner or operator and from which the present owner, operator or lessee has received no economic benefit other than as a landowner or recipient of a royalty interest from the well.”

**Eligible Wells:** Orphan wells that are eligible to be plugged via this Orphan Well Plugging Grant Program are listed in the following two locations:

[PA Oil and Gas Mapping](#) and [Abandoned Orphan Web - Report Viewer](#)

A well classified as abandoned may be an orphan well if it meets certain criteria. For more information, please go to the [orphan well classification request and instruction forms](#).

Individuals that become aware of abandoned wells – especially those wells causing environmental or public safety issues – are encouraged to contact the appropriate [DEP Oil and Gas District Office](#) or fill out the [Abandoned Well Reporting Form](#). Upon notification, DEP will investigate the well to determine if it qualifies as an abandoned or orphan well.

**Application:** The Orphan Well Plugging Grant Application is currently under development and will be available soon (please check back).

Complete applications will be processed on a “first come, first served” basis until all funds have been committed.

**Questions:** Should you have any specific questions about this grant program, please contact the Department via e-mail at [ra-epoilandgas@pa.gov](mailto:ra-epoilandgas@pa.gov).

More information coming soon...

[Orphan Grant at a Glance](#)

**Federal Legislation:**  
IIJA

**PA Grant:**  
~ \$16.8M

**Goal:**  
Plug Orphan Wells

**Result:**  
Reduce Environmental Hazards

**Eligibility:**  
Qualified Well Plunger

[Orphan Well Plugging Grant Webpage](#)



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION