

Orphaned Well Cleanup and Jobs Act



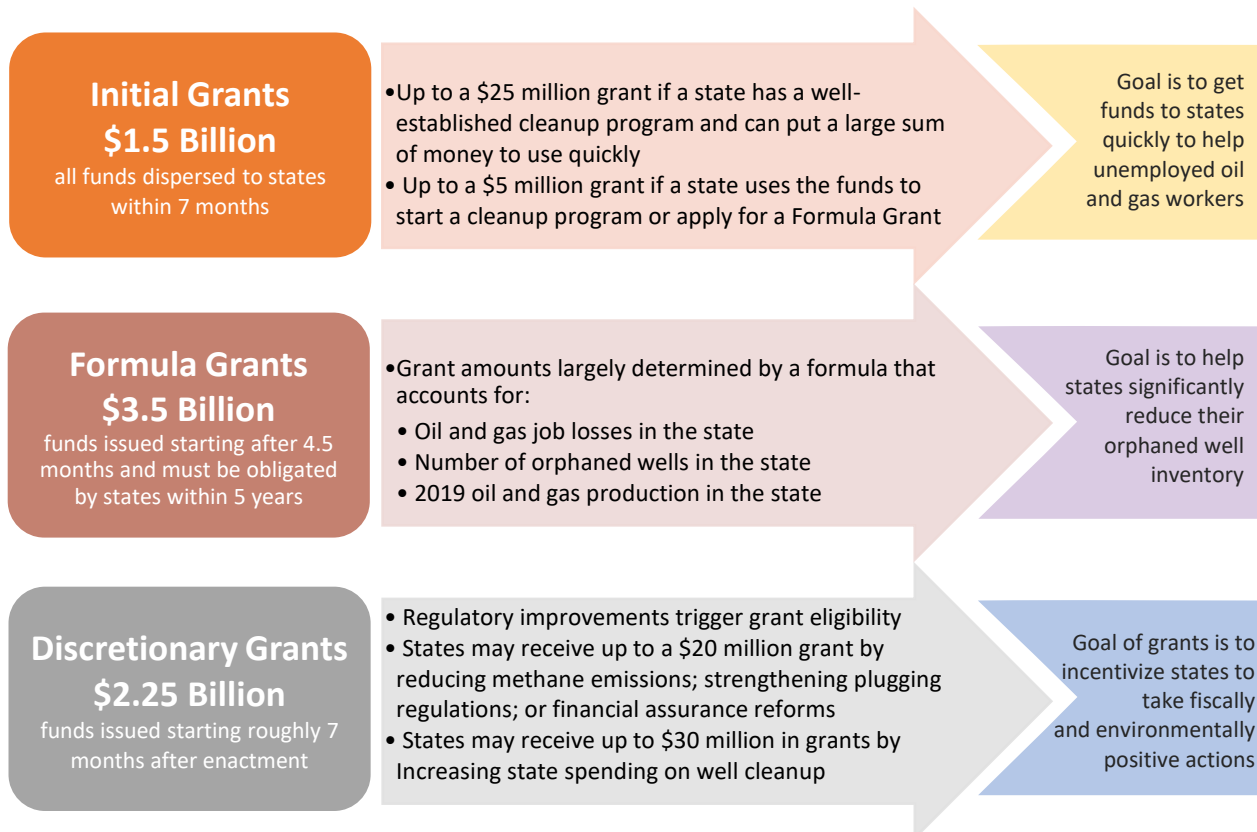
Across the country, over 56,000 known “orphaned” oil and gas wells (abandoned wells with no responsible party for cleanup) are leaking methane, contaminating groundwater, and creating safety risks. Even before the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, federal agencies and states responsible for plugging and reclaiming these wells had limited funding for cleanup. Under the *Orphaned Well Cleanup and Jobs Act*, **\$8 billion** would be authorized to put people to work cleaning up these sites. This reclamation and restoration work will help stimulate rural economies, create jobs, and cut down on pollution.

FUNDING AMOUNTS

- **\$7.25 billion** for orphaned well cleanup on state and private lands
- **\$700 million** for orphaned well cleanup on public and tribal lands
- **\$50 million** for related research, development, and implementation

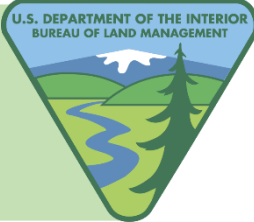


STATE GRANTS

Most documented orphaned wells are on state and private land, and the bulk of funds in the bill are dispersed to states through three types of grants administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI):



PUBLIC LANDS AND TRIBAL GRANTS

In addition to state grants, the bill strengthens regulations on public lands and directs funds to DOI to cleanup orphaned wells on public lands and creates a grant program within the Bureau of Indian Affairs to help Tribes cleanup orphaned wells:

<p>Public Lands \$400 Million</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the primary agency within DOI tasked with orphaned well cleanup BLM must establish a program to plug wells within 60 days of enactment BLM must create new definitions for 'orphaned well' and 'idled well' within six months of enactment 	
<p>Strengthened Regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases minimum public land oil and gas bonding amounts to \$150,000 and \$500,000 for all of an operator's wells on an individual lease or in an entire state, respectively Requires operators pay an annual fee for idled wells on public lands 	
<p>Tribal Grants \$300 Million</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is tasked with establishing a tribal grant program for Indian tribes Tribes can apply for and receive grants to plug orphaned wells and remediate surrounding lands Tribes may also request that BLM conduct the cleanup work 	

CLEANUP ACTIVITIES

The bill allows states, tribes, and federal agencies to use a variety of steps to find, assess, and clean-up orphaned wells and reduce the impacts of those wells to nearby communities and the environment:

