



RUNNER-UP

HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

ADOIL INC.

PRODUCT: TITAN

SERVICE: Wellhead spill containment unit



NO MORE LEAKS

Operator-friendly spill containment system prevents soil and groundwater contamination ■ *By Jacqueline Louie*

Happy customers say it's one of the best investments they have for preventing wellhead leakage.

The TITAN is a wellhead containment device designed to protect the environment and lower the financial risks of wellhead leakage by preventing spilled oil, produced water and chlorides from contaminating the environment. It's designed, manufactured and distributed by Calgary-based Adoil Inc.

"If you respond to a leak, even if it's a small leak, chances are you are going to prevent a major problem," says Marty Matthews, Adoil founder and general manager, who established Adoil as an on-site training and wellsite inspection firm in 1986, conducting field equipment inspections of thousands and thousands of wellsites. "One recurring thing that was often found to be neglected was the leakage that was seen in anywhere from five to 10 per cent of the oil wells at that time," Matthews recalls.

In the early 1990s, after a major producer asked him to develop a containment system that would capture the produced water and oil that leaked when no one was around—"which is 99 per cent of the time"—Matthews designed and developed the TITAN. He worked with a number of oil companies and their lead operators to come up with a containment unit that was easy to install, required no bolts or screws, and would capture any leakage that occurred in oil wells and water-producing gas wells.

The TITAN is made using a high-end aluminum alloy containment system, stainless steel valving and hinges, and a shatterproof clear-view polycarbonate top. "The point of the clear-view top is that operators can drive by the well and see if it

needs attention without having to get out of the truck," Matthews says. The TITAN also includes a shutdown switch to stop any leakage. Any leaked fluid "is returned to the battery and dealt with, and goes back into the system where it's supposed to be."

Adoil, which began production of the TITAN in 2002, has become Canada's largest wellhead containment manufacturer with sales in Canada and the United States, as well as in Colombia and Oman.

"We are constantly innovating," Matthews says, noting that Adoil has recently added features that include hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) and CO₂ detection to the TITAN's design. "With our containment system and a small detector with a built-in transmitter, a producer will instantly know which well needs attention to shut down the leak. H₂S, being highly dangerous gas, can be dealt with very quickly."

And, according to Matthews, the TITAN "helps the environment and lowers the cost of production because it eliminates an awful lot of the expensive services that have been used in the past, such as steam cleaning and gravel replacement."

Terry Chrisp, production superintendent at Winnipeg-based Tundra Oil & Gas Partnership, began using the TITAN devices about nine years ago on the company's wells in Manitoba.

"We really swear by them," says Chrisp, noting that Tundra now installs the TITAN on every new well. "It's great protection for the environment by controlling stuffing box spills in a very cost-effective way. We've had very good luck with Adoil's TITAN."

If companies "are concerned about wellhead spills, then definitely put them on. They are a very simple thing. They do a big job for a small investment," Chrisp says. ■