

Board of Trustees Update: January 2024

SER's Mission: Energy-driven economic development for Wyoming

SER Administration: SER presented its budget requests, as approved by the Energy Resources Council, to JAC on Jan 8 (immediately before UW). These requests include:

- \$2 million increase in standard budget (reoccurring) to increase personnel focused on rare earth elements, critical minerals, financial administration and outreach
- \$17 million for a solvent extraction demonstration to create Wyoming coal-derived asphalt binder in Campbell County
- \$2 million matching funds
- \$2 million for continued nuclear energy capacity building across UW

SER Academics:

- SER had 10 students graduate in December 2023: 4 from the BS, 3 from the Minor, and 3 from the newly-launched Land Administration certificate. SER has converted our College Relations Representative (Recruiter) to Project Coordinator, Senior to continue to seek innovative strategies to recruit and keep students in Wyoming that are passionate about a future career in energy.

SER Outreach:

- SER Outreach is busy scheduling speakers and events for the upcoming semester and year, including the annual landman conference on April 29.

SER Research: The SER research program leads and supports a wide array of Wyoming-focused research programs to ultimately drive increased state revenue and graduate students with expertise important to Wyoming.

- Wyoming's first Class VI well permits for carbon dioxide injection were approved. These wells are part of SER's Sweetwater Carbon Storage Hub CarbonSAFE project, in which SER is partnered with Frontier Carbon Solutions, SER's commercial partner is the holder of the permits.
- CERPA (Center for Regulation and Policy Analysis) published the first in a series of six white papers exploring the opportunities and challenges for Wyoming in the integrated nuclear industry. The first report is focused on new uranium enrichment. These are being completed in collaboration with the College of Business' Center for Business and Economic Analysis (CBEA).
- CERPA continues to provide policy support to the Governor's Office and the Wyoming Energy Authority on proposed rules: (1) US Forest Service amendment to its special use regulations to provide and exemption for carbon capture and storage; and (2) the Rock Springs BLM Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

- H₂ERC held a kickoff meeting for the Department of Energy funded project called 'Integration of Produced Water Thermal Desalination and Steam Methane Reforming for Efficient Hydrogen Production' project at Los Alamos National Lab.
- CCCC (Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion) along with Western Research Institute (WRI) continue to move forward with the solvent extraction research, scale-up and engineering design. The larger Solvent Extraction pilot plant construction is almost complete at the UW Lutz building and should have the shakedown and start up performed in March 2024. This will allow the team to provide much needed testing quantities for potential industrial partners in both the roofing and paving industries.
- The fast pyrolysis field demonstration plant in Gillette is moving forward. CCCC is working with Wood to procure several large pieces of equipment with long lead times. The construction contract for the pyrolysis work is under BOT review in January. If approved, construction will start in late February or early March.

Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI):

EORI Mission: The mission of EORI is technical collaborative work directly with the oil and gas industry in the State. Our focus is minimizing potentially stranded oil reserves and adding revenue to the State of Wyoming through additional severance taxes from increased production.

- Finalizing selection of proposals under the EORI Cost-Share RFP (Request for Proposal) focused on improving oil recovery in Wyoming fields. Award(s) will be announced by January 31, 2024. 2-3 additional EORI RFPs are in development for 2024.
- Focused technical collaborative work continues on 11 IOR/EOR projects with 11 different operators.
- Significant work continues on regional geologic work focusing on 2 significant Wyoming reservoirs with important remaining stranded oil reserves (Minnelusa and Muddy)
- Finalizing paperwork to launch first core flooding work with Piri Technologies.
- Positive EORC (Enhanced Oil Recovery Commission) Joint Appropriations Committee Budget hearing on January 8, 2024.
- On-going technical support for draft bill legislation to level the playing field of the 45Q Tax Credit incentive between dedicated storage vs. CO₂ stored through CO₂ – EOR. Final decision on advancing the bill to the upcoming legislative session anticipated soon.
- The new Wyoming Pipeline Infrastructure Viewer is live and public facing on the EORI website. All data transfer from old WPA servers to the new EORI cloud servers (Geocortex server and ArcGIS server) is complete
- Community and Industry Engagement
 - EOR Insights (Platform for Interactive Industry Meetings) continues February 15-16 with a 2-day conventional wells Log Interpretation Course led by Leo Giangiacomo.