Advanced Conversion Technologies Task Force Meeting
Friday, March 22, 2013
UW Conference Center – Hilton Garden
Laramie, Wyoming

ACTTF Members Present: Paul Lang (Chair), Tom Lockhart (Vice-Chair), Tom Botts, Ron Harper, Jim Anderson, Carl Bauer, Martha Wyrsch, David Emery, Rob Wallace (phone)

ACTTF Members Absent: Jeane Hull, Rob Hurless

SER Staff in Attendance: Cath Harris, Mark Northam, Mary Byrnes, Nadia Kaliszewski, Abby Mellinger Scott, Diana Hulme

Others Attending: Wendy Lowe (Peabody Energy), David Bell (University of Wyoming)

Agenda:

1) Minutes from November 15, 2012
2) Status update on projects, budget – Diana Hulme
3) $9 Million – Review of Legislation
4) Glass Study – Letter of Decision
5) New Business – Direction for Next Meeting
6) Adjourn

Summary of Action Items from Meeting:
1. Agenda Approval – Approved unamended.
2. Status update on projects, budget – No action taken. Abby Scott will send the Task Force the executive summary reports and a sample close-out letter for review.
4. Glass Study – Letter of Decision – Ron Harper motioned to have Mark Northam write a letter to the Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee of the Legislature recommending that the $100,000 allocated to this study not be spent at this time for the stated use. Senator Anderson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Senator Anderson will approach the Joint Minerals Committee about possibly re-appropriating the money for evaluation of extraction of high grade silica for use in the manufacture of higher grade glass products.
5. New Business – Direction for Next Meeting – No action taken. The next meeting will be held on Friday May 17, 2013.
6. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously at 2:20 p.m.
MEETING DETAILS:

1. **Minutes from November 16, 2012**  
   *Action Taken:* A motion to accept the minutes from the November 16, 2012 meeting was made by Representative Tom Lockhart and seconded by Ron Harper. There were no changes to the minutes and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Status update on projects, budget**  
   *Summary:* Diana Hulme provided an overview of projects funded through the Clean Coal/Advanced Conversion Technology Fund. All new contracts for the 2012 awards have been issued. In the coming weeks, a new set of executive summary reports from recently completed projects will be sent to the Task Force for review. The Task Force was also asked to review a draft close-out letter to be sent to principal investigators funded under the CCTF/ACTTF who have completed all project requirements.

   *Comments:* The Task Force discussed upcoming opportunities to showcase and follow up with completed projects. Vice-Chairman Lockhart suggested that the Task Force be provided a list of achievements supported by the Fund. Mark Northam reminded the Task Force that there are currently a number of successful research projects at the laboratory stage or in the process of moving towards commercialization that could benefit from the Task Force’s support and encouragement. He said that the Task Force should work to push these projects past the academic stage to get the full benefit of the investment in the research program. Senator Jim Anderson suggested bringing this discussion to the Joint Minerals, Business, and Economic Development legislative committee.

   *Action Taken:* No action taken. Abby Scott will send the Task Force the executive summary reports and a sample close-out letter for review.

3. **$9 Million – Review of Legislation**  
   *Summary:* Mark Northam directed the Task Force to page 74 of the meeting notebooks to read the legislative changes made regarding the mineral-to-value-added appropriation. The revised legislation reads:

   
   “(vi)(C) Nine million dollars ($9,000,000) to the governor’s office for the purpose of supporting the design or construction of a commercial scale facility which converts mineral to value added products. Any grant supporting the construction shall only be expended for the development of final design documents for or actual cost to construct a commercial minerals-to-value-added products conversion facility. The governor may take all actions necessary to ensure the legality of an expenditure of any portion of the appropriation. No funds shall be expended from this appropriation to provide salaries.”

Mark added that while the appropriation is no longer the responsibility of the Task Force, it does state that, “The governor may request a determination by the advanced conversion technologies task force and the joint minerals, business and economic development interim committee that the grant has a reasonable likelihood of leveraging a substantial future capital investment in a large plant siting in this state.”

   *Action Taken:* No action taken.
4. **Glass Study – Letter of Decision**  
*Summary:* Mark Northam began the discussion of the glass study by reminding the Task Force that the language in the $100,000 appropriation directs the Task Force to deliver a report to the Joint Minerals, Business, and Economic Development Committee on June 1, 2013 (House Bill 121/House Enrolled Act 25). On behalf of the Task Force, SER previously found four technical studies already undertaken to evaluate the glass manufacturing issue. The studies found that glass manufacturing in Wyoming is not viable because of prohibitively high costs to ship the finished product to market. Given that the findings of those studies are still relevant, Mark suggested to the Task Force that they charge SER with writing a letter for delivery by June 1, 2013 recommending that the appropriated funds not be spent at this time.

*Comments:* Senator Anderson relayed to the Task Force that one of his constituents approached him about the possibility of doing a study, costing approximately $25,000, to evaluate the use of high grade silica deposits. After some discussion, the Task Force concluded that the language of the legislation (House Bill 121/House Enrolled Act 25) precludes the Task Force from pursuing a study on silica, as it would be subject to the same economic constraints of manufacturing in Wyoming.

*Action Taken:* Ron Harper motioned to have Mark Northam write a letter to the Joint Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee of the Legislature recommending that the $100,000 allocated to this study not be spent at this time for the stated use. Senator Anderson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Senator Anderson will approach the Committee about possibly re-appropriating the money for evaluation of extraction of high grade silica for use in the manufacture of higher grade glass products.

5. **New Business – Direction for Next Meeting**  
*Summary:* The Task Force asked that SER determine a way to summarize and present the completed clean coal projects at the next Clean Coal Technologies Research Symposium in August 2013.

*Action Taken:* No action taken.

Chairman Lang took a moment to recognize and thank Ron Harper for his service as chairman of the Advanced Conversion Technologies Task Force for the past six years.

The next meeting will be held on Friday May 17, 2013 in Laramie.

Motion to adjourn was made by Carl Bauer, seconded by Ron Harper, and passed unanimously.  
**Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Paul Lang  
Chairman

Tom Lockhart  
Vice-Chairman

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