



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CO-DIRECTORS OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER

ISSUED BY THE UW SCHOOL OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Proposals are due November 19, 2021
Directors will be notified by December 3, 2021



Request for Proposals: Co-Directors of the Nuclear Energy Research Center

Background:

The School of Energy Resources (SER) is focused on academics, outreach and research to yield energy-driven economic development for Wyoming. Considering this mission, SER selectively supports research centers of excellence across the University of Wyoming. This RFP is focused on building up a new center of excellence focused on nuclear energy.

Wyoming has long been a contributor to nuclear power as the largest US producer of uranium with substantial remaining reserves, although production has stalled in recent years.¹ With the PacifiCorp/TerraPower announcement that Wyoming will be home to the first-of-a-kind demonstration of TerraPower's Natrium™ nuclear power plant, there is a renewed interest in nuclear energy across the state and at UW. Advanced nuclear has tremendous potential for Wyoming, as nuclear energy and related services are projected to be a \$2.5 trillion business over the next two decades and a significant part of meeting global and local emission goals.

Recognizing that many UW faculty and staff are already active in research fields critical to the success of nuclear energy, and also that many others have skillsets that would enable them to focus on nuclear, SER is issuing this solicitation to stand up a Nuclear Energy Research Center (NERC) with an initial focus of interdisciplinary nuclear-energy capacity building across UW. Capacity building will be focused on developing collaborative relationships both external and internal to UW focused on nuclear energy research.

Interested faculty and staff are invited to apply for the NERC co-director positions.

Areas of Expertise Invited:

Given that increased deployment of nuclear energy faces both technical and non-technical challenges, SER will select two directors for NERC, one focused on the social sciences (i.e., economics, social license, law/regulatory policy, communication, etc.) and the other focused on the hard sciences (i.e., chemistry, chemical engineering, material science, mechanical engineering, physics, computer sciences, electrical engineering, geology, etc.). These co-directors will be charged with coordinating the center's management and activities.

NERC Director Responsibilities:

The initial tasks for the directors of NERC include

- Applying for center status from the UW Office of Research and Economic Development
- Prepare a 5-year strategy for research and engagement for the center and support capacity building at UW through leading a colloquium series (both in person and on zoom as appropriate). Nuclear experts will be invited to campus to interact with UW faculty and staff and discuss collaborative research opportunities.

¹ <https://www.wyomingmining.org/minerals/uranium/>



- Participate in regular discussions with national laboratories, state officials and industry partners

The co-directors will also be asked to provide a quarterly update to SER Senior Director of Research on the activities of the center.

Funding Opportunity:

- \$80,000 maximum budget annual budget for FY22 and FY23 (subject to availability of funds)
 - Support director summer salary (each year for each director – i.e., June 2022 and 2023)
 - Support travel and logistics associated with the colloquium
 - Other nuclear capacity building needs as approved by SER
 - Cost share to leverage grants and other sponsored research projects
- **ALL FUNDS MUST BE EXPENDED IN THE FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH THEY ARE APPROVED. THERE WILL BE NO EXTENSIONS FROM ONE FISCAL YEAR TO THE NEXT.**

How to apply:

Submit a 2-page (max) proposal that includes:

- Proposed director college/department affiliation and expertise
- One paragraph description of a 5-year vision for the center's focus and an outcome for students (to be developed in detail if selected as director)
- Initial description of colloquium concepts and value to the Wyoming nuclear sector
- How funds will be spent (each director should prepare a \$40k annual budget or a pair can jointly prepare a \$80k budget)
- Letter of support from the appropriate department head or director
- Email the proposal and questions to Trish Steger (psteger@uwyo.edu) with the subject "SER NERC"

Applicants are welcome to apply individually or jointly.

Timeline:

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