

THE Core SAMPLE

Internal Newsletter of the School of Energy Resources

December | 2022

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC GEOLOGY RESEARCH COMPLETES STEP RATE AND MECHANICAL INTEGRITY TESTING ON UNDERGROUND CO₂ STORAGE SITE

The Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR) in the School of Energy Resources (SER) completed mechanical testing at the Wyoming CarbonSAFE Project site located next to Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Dry Fork Station near Gillette, Wyo.

Over the course of nine days, a collaborative team conducted Step Rate Testing (SRT) and Mechanical Integrity Testing (MIT) between two wells that were previously drilled to Class VI Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) standards at the site, and have the potential to serve as Wyoming's first commercial scale carbon dioxide (CO₂) injection wells for permanent underground storage. The two wells are currently permitted as Class I wells and will need to be converted to Class VI prior to any CO₂ being injected.



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NATURAL RESOURCES ATTORNEY AND POLICY EXPERT JOINS UW SCHOOL OF ENERGY

Kara Brighton Fornstrom, a prominent natural resources attorney and regulatory policy expert, is the new University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources (SER) Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis (CERPA) director.



Fornstrom will lead a team of research scientists and attorneys to monitor and evaluate existing legislative and regulatory issues relating to energy development issues in the state, and to serve as a resource for decision-makers at the local, state, regional and national levels.

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HIGHLIGHTS

Research Centers of Excellence

- Interim Director Trina Igelsrud Pfeiffer in the *Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion (CCCC)* and SER Executive Director Holly Krutka went before the Wyoming Legislative Joint Appropriations Committee in support of supplemental funding requests for the carbon engineering program.

Academics

- An article authored by Professor Tara Righetti was listed as one of the Top 20 Academic Articles for the year as recognized by the Environmental Law Institute.



- Professor John Kaszuba is the recipient of additional research funding from ConocoPhillips. The company has offered to continue support for one project and support a brand new project with his team.



General Announcements

- The UW Website is undergoing a migration into a new system. There will be blackout dates from January 12 - February 10 in which no new content can be added to the website. Please be patient if you need something updated and contact **Christine Reed** with any questions.

To submit news and updates email: Christine.reed@uwyo.edu



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UW'S JOHN KASZUBA ADVANCES CO₂ STORAGE RESEARCH WITH RECENT PUBLICATION

John Kaszuba, the University of Wyoming's John and Jane Wold Centennial Chair in Energy and School of Energy Resources professor of geology and geophysics, recently published an article in collaboration with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) that advances carbon dioxide storage research.



The new high-profile, peer-reviewed article in Nature Reviews Chemistry discusses how CO₂ converts from a gas to a solid in ultrathin films of water on underground rock surfaces. These solid minerals, known as carbonates, are both stable and common.



The partnership with PNNL has led to a second important publication on basalt formations, written by Kaszuba's current Ph.D. student, **Ellen Polites**, from York, Pa. Polites recently published an article, "Exotic Carbonate Mineralization Recovered from a Deep Basalt Carbon Storage Demonstration," in Environmental Science & Technology.

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SER CELEBRATES FALL 2022 GRADUATE

The School of Energy Resources is excited to celebrate and acknowledge the monumental occasion of success for our fall 2022 graduate, **Austin Moon**.



An accomplished individual, Moon is graduating with a degree in Energy Resources Management and Development (ERMD) with a concentration in Energy and Environmental Systems (EES), as well as a minor in Reclamation and Restoration Ecology, and an undergraduate certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

A native of Cheyenne, Wyo., Moon has excelled in his education and been afforded exceptional opportunities during his time at SER. In addition to working on innovative energy research as a GIS and Geology Generalist for the Center of Economic and Geology Research (CEGR), Moon has gained valuable experience working with rangeland research scientists as a Biological Science Technician for the Agricultural Research Service under the US Department of Agriculture, along with other opportunities.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Office Closed**
January 16, 2023
- **Spring Semester Classes Begin**
January 17, 2023
- **Wyoming Energy Authority Lunch and Poster Session at Wyoming Legislature**
January 18, 2023
- **Distinguished Speaker Series - Brooks Tueting (Patent Law)**
January 25, 2023
- **Website Blackout Dates**
January 12 - February 10, 2023



ENERGY JOKE

