



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NUCLEAR RESEARCH FOR WYOMING'S FULL FUEL CYCLE

ISSUED BY THE UW SCHOOL OF ENERGY RESOURCES

Proposals are due January 31, 2025

Selected projects will be notified by
February 15, 2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The School of Energy Resources (SER) is focused on advancing energy-driven economic development for Wyoming. Uranium production and nuclear energy are important components of Wyoming's energy past, present and future. Thanks to support from the Wyoming legislature and with support from the governor's office, SER aims to grow nuclear-related research capacity at the University of Wyoming by encouraging proposals for standalone projects or cost-sharing initiatives funded by DOE or other agencies. Eligible projects include those focused on uranium production, nuclear energy research, and workforce development.

TOPICS OF INTEREST:

High priority projects will be selected in three areas of interest (AOI):

- **AOI 1: Fuel Cycle Value Chain and Advanced Materials -**
 - AO1a: This area focuses on funding research that addresses challenges within the nuclear fuel cycle.
 - AO1b: This area focuses on research involving advanced materials designed to withstand extreme conditions associated with nuclear energy production.
- **AOI 2: General Research and Nuclear Energy Capacity Building -** This area of interest is focused on general research and nuclear energy capacity building that align with US Department of Energy funding opportunities and other sources (see here: <https://www.energy.gov/ne/funding-opportunities>). This area prioritizes research and personnel support aimed at producing comprehensive studies, innovative data, or significant contributions will position UW for follow on sponsored research in alignment with the build out of Wyoming's nuclear industry.
- **AOI 3: Workforce Development and Outreach -** This area encompasses research and outreach activities centered on workforce development and community engagement to support Wyoming's nuclear energy sector. Projects may include social science research related to educational programming, training initiatives, and efforts to raise public awareness to advance nuclear energy build-out or uranium mining in Wyoming.

Proposals for up to \$125,000 are welcome in each area. Funds can be used for various research purposes, including:

- Graduate/undergraduate student support for students working directly on the project
- Post-doc support
- Research equipment, consumables, and other needs for the proposed research
- Faculty summer salary (maximum one month per fiscal year)
- Travel expenses related to the research project
- Cost share for externally funded research

Priority is given to projects that use these funds as seed funding and align with the funding priorities of federal, private industry, or philanthropic sources.

HOW TO APPLY:

Submit a 5 page (max) proposal that includes:

- Principal Investigator, college/department affiliation, and expertise
- Explanation of how the research will grow or support Wyoming's nuclear or mining sector and has potential maintain sustained funding from federal, private sector or philanthropic sources
- Budget detailing how the funds will be spent
 - Explanation of the research and how it will improve nuclear-related research capacity important to Wyoming. This focus must be maintained throughout the duration of the funding. If the agreed upon focus is not followed, SER reserves the right to discontinue funding the project.
 - Specific deliverables for the course of the project (i.e., quarterly reports, papers, etc.).

Email the proposal and questions to SER Project Specialist, Tiffany Bishop tbishop6@uwo.edu, with the subject "Wyoming Nuclear Full Fuel Cycle."

TIMELINE:

- Proposals are due **January 31, 2025**
- Selected projects will be notified by **February 15, 2025**
- Project duration: Funds must be spent by **August 31, 2027**

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES:

- Quarterly progress reports (1 page)
- Annual presentation of project status and progress, and submittal of presentation file (.pdf or .ppt) by June 30, 2025 and each June 30 for the duration of the project.
- Final report due 3 months after the conclusion of the project final reports must include an executive summary that is 10 pages or less.



It is expected that four (4) total projects will be awarded, subject to the availability of funding.