



Sponsored by the UW School of Energy
Resources and the Wold Foundation

Critical Minerals in Critical Energy Industries

October 22, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center | Laramie, Wyoming

Agenda

10:00 AM

Welcome Remarks

Dr. John Kaszuba

John and Jane Wold Centennial Chair in Energy

School of Energy Resources Professor of Geology & Geophysics

Pete Obermueller

Executive Director, School of Energy Resources

Court Wold

Partner, Wold Companies

10:15 - 10:45 AM

Topic Presentation 1: Critical Mineral Workforce Development

Erin Phillips

Director of Cross Cutting Programs, School of Energy Resources

10:45 - 11:45 AM

Panel 1: Critical Minerals in Oil & Gas

Moderator:

Autumn Eakin

Assistant Director, Center for Economic Geology Research,
School of Energy Resources

Panelists:

Jonathan Brant

UW Professor of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction
Management; Director, Center for Produced Water Management

TBD

Industry

Brian Annes

Counsel, Davis | Graham

Ariel S. Martin

UW Postdoctoral Researcher, Kaszuba Research Group

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Energy Resources

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Networking and Lunch Break
12:30 - 12:45 PM	Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker Peter Wold Senior Partner, Wold Companies Board of Directors, Wold Foundation
12:45 - 1:15 PM	Keynote Address Governor Mark Gordon State of Wyoming
1:15 - 2:15 PM	Panel 2: Coal as an Unconventional Critical Material Resource <i>Moderator:</i> Tyler Brown Critical Mineral Team, Center for Economic Geology Research School of Energy Resources <i>Panelists:</i> Davin Bagdonas Principal Scientist, Center for Economic Geology Research, School of Energy Resources Scott Montross Acting Technology Director, Critical Minerals and Advanced Alloys Center of Excellence, National Energy Technology Laboratory Dan Connell President of CONSOL Innovations at CORE Natural Resources Hoon Choi UW Professor of Chemical Engineering focused on processing and separations
2:15 - 2:45 PM	Topic Presentation 2: Uranium and Nuclear Energy Ryan S. Schierman, M.Sc. Vice President Regulatory Affairs, UR Energy
2:45 - 3:10 PM	Afternoon Coffee Break
3:10 - 4:10 PM	Panel 3: Critical Mineral Usage in Modern Society <i>Moderator:</i> Brian Leonard UW Professor of Chemistry - works on solar energy <i>Panelists:</i> Jinke Tang UW Professor working on Battery Storage Paul Bonifas Director, Business Development at Rare Element Resources Kevin Frances Vice President, CK Gold Corp

4:10 - 4:40 PM

Topic Presentation 3: Mining and Traditional Critical Minerals, Halleck Creek Project

Nick Lissolo

VP Corporate Development at American Rare Earth, Inc.

4:40 - 5:00 PM

Student Poster Session Winners and Closing Remarks

