

# THE Core SAMPLE

Internal Newsletter of the School of Energy Resources

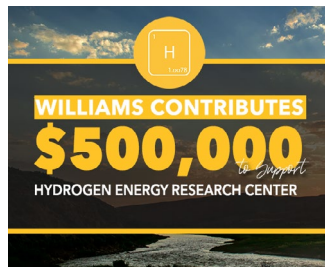
January | 2022

## UW'S SER RECEIVES \$500,000 WILLIAMS CONTRIBUTION TO FUND HYDROGEN ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER

The University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources (SER) received a \$500,000 commitment from energy infrastructure leader Williams to help fund the school's Hydrogen Energy Research Center (H<sub>2</sub>ERC).

The gift will be spread over five years to support the new center dedicated to applied hydrogen research, collaboration with Wyoming stakeholders and the growth of a hydrogen industry in Wyoming.

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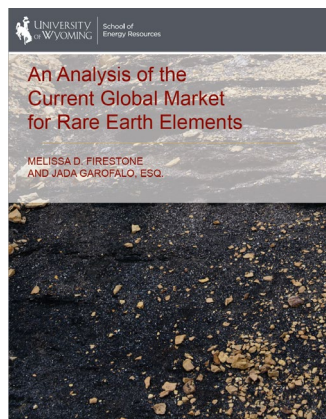


## CERPA RELEASES PAPER ON THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF RARE EARTH ELEMENTS

The Center for Energy Regulation & Policy Analysis (CERPA) in the School of Energy Resources (SER) has released a resource paper that provides an economic analysis of Rare Earth Elements (REE).


The paper entitled, An Analysis of the Current Global Market for Rare Earth Elements, is the first in a two-part series focusing on the REE industry, and aims to provide a base understanding of REE, the REE production and extraction process, an overview of the global REE market, and a summary of US government interest, policies, and funding being directed to further the development of a REE supply chain in the US.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### Research Centers of Excellence

- The **Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR)** welcomed Bob Gregory to the team\*\*\*
- **CEGR/CERPA** research scientist **Selena Gerace** was promoted to associate research scientist. 
- **Fred McLaughlin** was named the new director of **CEGR**. He has served as the interim director since June 2021.\*\*\*
- **CEGR** is currently conducting interviews to fill two new positions.
- The CORE-CM team for the Powder River Basin in **CEGR** is organizing a virtual Technology Roundtable for stakeholders on Feb. 24, 2022.
- Both CORE-CM teams submit quarterly reports to the Department of Energy summarizing activities to date in the respective basins.
- The **3D Visualization (3D Viz) Center** completed a surface mine training program for Gillette College.
- **3D Viz Center** manager **Emma-Jane Alexander** has announced her resignation and will be leaving SER on March 1. SER congratulates Ms. Alexander on her new job opportunity. She will be greatly missed! 

\*\*\* more details in features

To submit news and updates email: [Christine.reed@uwyo.edu](mailto:Christine.reed@uwyo.edu)



School of Energy Resources

## UW SER PUBLISHES STUDY ON DOMESTIC CRITICAL MINERAL PRODUCTION FROM COAL BYPRODUCTS

Researchers in the University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources (SER) have published a collaborative study on the potential for domestic critical mineral (CM) and rare earth element (REE) production from unconventional sources in the United States.

Recently released in the *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* journal, the study provides a geologic assessment of CM and REE occurrences in coal fly ash sourced from the Powder River Basin, as well as a complementary economic and policy analysis that explores a viable way to produce more of these critical minerals domestically from coal byproducts.

The results of the study led by SER research scientist **Davin Bagdonas** show that coal fly ash created from the combustion of Powder River Basin coal holds promise as an economic source of REEs.

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## THE SCHOOL OF ENERGY RESOURCES ADDS ROBERT GREGORY TO CORE-CM TEAM

The School of Energy Resource's (SER) Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR) hired **Robert "Bob" Gregory** in January 2022 to expand the team of research scientists working on the carbon ore, rare earth and critical mineral (CORE-CM) projects.

Originally from Great Falls, MT, Gregory grew up in Casper and has spent over 37 years in Laramie. After earning a bachelor's degree in Physical and Sedimentary Geology from the University of Wyoming in 1985, he embarked on a 30-year career as a geologist for the Wyoming State Geological Survey (WSGS). He later earned a master's degree from UW in Metamorphic Petrology, graduating in 2009.

As a new research scientist in CEGR, Gregory will be working on the Department of Energy (DOE) funded CORE-CM projects that launched in fall of 2021 in both the PRB and the Greater Green River and Wind River Basins (GGRB) to assess REE and CM resource potential in Wyoming.

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## HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

### Research Centers of Excellence Cont.

- The **Hydrogen Energy Research Center (HERC)** website is now live. [Click Here >>>](#)
- SER has hired a director for **HERC. Dr. Eugene Holubnyak** will be joining SER soon in the new position. 
- The **Center for Energy Regulation & Policy Analysis (CERPA)** released a resource paper by SER contract economist **Melissa Firestone**. The paper provides an economic analysis of Rare Earth Elements (REE).\*\*\*
- The **Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion (CCCC)** is coordinating with engineering company Wood and Atlas Carbon LLC to sign an agreement launching site work for a coal refinery field demonstration project near Gillette, Wyo.
- Construction has officially commenced on the char brick demonstration house in the **CCCC**. Construction is expected to be completed in April. 

### Academics

- SER Professor of Economics **Tim Considine** released a study for the Garfield County (Colo.) commissioners that details the impacts of recent new state oil and gas regulations on the local economy. 
- SER Professor of Law **Tara Righetti** and SER Professor **Kris Koski's** article was selected for inclusion in the list of top 20 articles selected for the fifteenth edition of the Environmental Law and Policy Annual Review (ELPAR).
- SER is sending 4 students to attend the NAPE Summit Expo February 9-11 in Houston, Tx.

\*\*\* more details in features

## MCLAUGHLIN NAMED DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR ECONOMIC GEOLOGY RESEARCH

The School of Energy Resources (SER) has named **J. Fred McLaughlin** as the director of the Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR). McLaughlin has served as the interim director of the center since June 2021.

In his capacity as the interim director, McLaughlin has managed a growing team of research scientists in CEGR who have successfully competed for over \$35 million in federal funding in the last five years on topics ranging from CO<sub>2</sub> storage, oil and gas production, rare earths and critical materials, lithium, precious metals and more.

The group is collectively focused on making Wyoming a leader in these fields and advancing the knowledge and expertise required to achieve commercialization.

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## UW STUDENT NADIA DWORIAN TO WORK ON WYOMING GOLD-COPPER MINE PROJECT

**Nadia Dworian**, a University of Wyoming undergraduate student from Anchorage, Alaska, will work with U.S. Gold Corp. on the Copper King (CK) Gold Project, located near Curt Gowdy State Park in southeastern Wyoming.

Dworian will be tasked with identifying, describing and documenting mineralization and associated alteration assemblages from the CK Mine. The project will then fund a UW graduate student to collect subsequent data and provide supporting analysis over a two-year period.

For the current project, Dworian will work with supervisor **Simone Runyon**, a UW Department of Geology and Geophysics assistant professor, and **Fred McLaughlin**, the director of UW's School of Energy Resources (SER) Center for Economic Geology Research (CEGR).

SER also will play a part in the joint industry project. CEGR research scientists will coordinate with U.S. Gold Corp. to develop mapping and sampling strategies; collect and document critical samples; and process samples for geochemical, geochronological and petrological analysis.

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## HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

### Academics Cont.

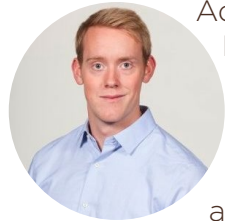
- SER Academics will host the "Rocky Mountain Professional Landman Conference" in Laramie on April 29, 2022. More details to come!

- SER student relations representative **Karolina Klatka** is traveling all over the state to meet with potential new students. She has over 30 visits arranged!



- **Karolina Klatka** will be attending the Wyoming School Counselors Association (WYSCA) annual conference along with current ERMD student **Emily Lantiegne**. The conference will take place February 16-17.

- ERMD Alumnus **Sam Mallory** has been named the newest member of the PLM Advisory Board. The next PLM Board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 18, 2022.



- Academics is currently undergoing the re-accreditation process through the Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL) for the PLM program.

### General Announcements

- SER executive director **Holly Krutka** traveled to St. Louis, Mo. to meet with Arch Coal and Peabody to discuss future collaborative opportunities.
- 2021 Performance Evaluation documents for classified staff and administrative personnel are now available. Evaluations should be completed no later than March 31, 2022. It is the supervisor's responsibility to initiate the evaluation in HCM.
- The University of Wyoming Energy Resources Council (ERC) will meet at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 11, at Laramie's Hilton Garden Inn.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **Energy Resources Council Meeting**  
February 11, 2022
- **PLM Advisory Board Meeting**  
February 18, 2022
- **CORE-CM PRB Technology Roundtable**  
February 24, 2022
- **Spring Break**  
March 14-18, 2022
- **American Association of Professional Geologists CCUS Annual Meeting - Houston**  
March 28-31, 2022
- **Rocky Mountain PLM Conference**  
April 29, 2022

## ENERGY JOKE

