

School of Energy Resources Update
May 14, 2020

1. Holly Krutka and Mark Northam continue to work together to ensure a smooth transition of the School of Energy Resources Executive Director position. This effort will continue through June 2020.
2. SER received notification that its \$15.2 million (federal dollars only) application for Phase III of the Department of Energy's (DOE) CarbonSAFE program, led by the Center for Economic Geology Research, was successful. This award will include the detailed evaluation of storage reservoirs for carbon dioxide in the vicinity of Basin Electric's Dry Fry Fork Station in Campbell County. The application included nearly \$4 million of cost share, which will be in-kind and cash contributions from SER and partners in the project (UW's Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute; Basin Electric Power Cooperative; University of North Dakota's Energy and Environmental Research Center; Advanced Resources International; Carbon Geocycle). This project is expected to contribute approximately \$1.75 million in indirects to the university.

A second large DOE application that was expected to be submitted in the near term has now been delayed by DOE until early 2021; this project will be focused on the Front End Engineering Design (FEED), construction, commissioning and operation of a pilot-scale Flameless Pressurized Oxy-fuel (FPO) technology. Through this application, SER will be seeking approximately \$60 million from DOE, and will require up to \$12 million in matching funds, which was appropriated by the state. Partners in this program are Black Diamond Financial Group; Southwest Research Institute (SwRI); Sargent and Lundy; GE; and Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). When this application is submitted, it will require a host site. Thus, SER has been participating in a Site Selection Committee to evaluate various options, including, but not limited to, the UW Central Energy Plant.

3. A funding opportunity announcement (FOA) focused on coal to non-energy products has been released by the Department of Energy. SER is leading the preparation of applications with faculty currently engaged with its Carbon Engineering program.
4. SER has been holding working sessions with both the Office of Research and Economic Development and the Office of Sponsored Programs to identify opportunities to improve execution of grant preparation and negotiation as well as post-award contract administration. While improvements have been identified and jointly acted upon in only a few weeks of collaboration, a Department of Energy grant held by the Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute was suspended due to delinquent financial reports. Thus, more work is necessary to ensure that external grants are being properly supported by the university.
5. SER is looking to hire an interim Academic Director (internal hire) to ensure continued delivery of our academic program and expand its impact.