

School of Energy Resources Update
November 2, 2020

1. SER is nearing completion of a voluntary strategic review of its academic program. Dr. David Whitman, former Associate Dean for the College of Engineering and Applied Science and UW employee for approximately 35+ years, is leading the review. While key recommendations and action items have yet to be finalized, the interim report includes the following recommendations and conclusions
 - a. SER is well known for its research program and needs to make better use of this platform to recruit potential students
 - b. Advertise as a pre-law undergraduate degree
 - c. Increase content and advertising about renewable energy as part of the program (the program focuses on all energy sources, but is viewed as strictly oil and gas focused)
 - d. There are some curriculum changes that should be considered to improve flexibility, but generally the curriculum receives high reviews from current students, alumni and (for the landman concentration) the American Association of Professional Landmen
2. Phase III of the Wyoming CarbonSAFE project commenced on October 1, 2020. Phase III is a \$19.5 million, three-year project adjacent to project-partner Basin Electric's Dry Fork power station with the objective of characterizing and preparing a CO₂ storage site capable of accepting up to 50 million tons of CO₂.
3. SER, Southwest Research Institute, Black Hills, Sargent & Lundy, the Electric Power Research Institute are actively preparing the proposal for the Phase III Flameless Pressurized Oxy-combustion (FPO) project, which could include up to \$60 million in federal funding with \$12 million in state match appropriated. The UW Research Office has been supporting the preparation of the application and permitting requirements.
4. SER's Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis (CERPA) has recently prepared several responses to requests for comment/information from other states on energy policy issues important to Wyoming. Generally, these comments are being formally submitted by the Wyoming Energy Authority through a growing collaboration between the Authority and SER. An example of the focus of such comments is to make a case for Wyoming fossil fuels with carbon capture, use and storage to be included under states' Clean Energy Standards (CES).
5. SER is actively working to fill several endowed chair positions:
 - a. A nomination package has been prepared for the John and Jane Wold Centennial Chair in Energy, which was the University of Wyoming's first endowed chair and was recently revitalized through a new commitment from the Wold Foundation matched by the State of Wyoming.
 - b. SER has released a [call](#) for nominations across the University of Wyoming for the Occidental Petroleum Corporation Chair in Energy and Environmental Technologies
 - c. SER and Haub are collaborating to jointly prepare a call for an Occidental Petroleum Corporation Chair in Energy and Environmental Policies.