

Board of Trustees Update: Nov. 2024

SER's Mission: Energy-driven economic development for Wyoming

SER Administration:

- The Energy Resources Council the next meeting will be the annual joint meeting with the Board of Trustees on November 21-22, 2024.
- The School of Energy Resources made a supplemental budget request to include:
 - \$2.08M to cover inflation on the coal pyrolysis field demonstration in Campbell County
 - \$2M in 1:1 matching for philanthropic giving

SER Academics:

- SER and CEPS continue to advance the nuclear energy science certificate with BOT review at this BOT meeting (Nov 2024)

SER Outreach:

- The Tribal Energy Summit took place on October 17. This conference convened leaders from energy producing tribal nations and tribal energy companies to speak about challenges and opportunities for continued energy development in the rural American West. The conference was well attended with 272 registrants.
- The Energy Roadshow platform hosted a public outreach meeting in Casper on October 15 and one on October 30 in Cody. There will be one more of the year on November 13 in Rock Springs.

SER Research: The SER research program leads and supports a wide array of Wyoming-focused research programs to ultimately drive increased state revenue and graduate students with expertise important to Wyoming.

- CEGR (Center for Economic Geology Research) was selected for a new grant (total \$5,915,324) to develop strategies for carbon management monitoring and risk abatement in the Wyoming Green and Wind River basins. This project is titled the Wyoming Technical Assistance Collaboration for Carbon Management (WYTAC-CM) and will last three years.
- Eugene Holubnyak, director of Hydrogen Energy Research Center (H₂ERC), has been recognized by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) as a 2024 recipient of a regional award for his technical expertise and exceptional contributions to programs focused on hydrogen transportation and storage. SPE honors members among 13 regions worldwide who have contributed outstanding service and leadership to the society, as well as those who have made major professional contributions to their technical disciplines at the regional level.

- CCCC (Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion) has procured most of the major pieces of equipment for the pyrolysis field demonstration plant (this facility is the basis of SER's inflation-related supplemental budget request). A rotary kiln was installed at the Wyoming Innovation Center (WyIC) near Gillette along with the control room building and bathroom trailer. Concrete pads are to be poured in the spring of 2025 with installation of equipment commencing in late spring/early summer of 2025. In the second coal-to-products process being developed, the solvent extraction pilot plant controls are being installed and control logic is being written at the Lutz building. The planned start-up is late November. The engineering data from the pilot plant will be used for the detailed engineering design of the solvent extraction field demonstration plant, which will also be built at WyIC, next to the pyrolysis demonstration, starting in the fall of 2025.
- CERPA (Center for Energy Regulation and Policy Analysis) recently published a new white paper: *Navigating the New NEPA Landscape: An Overview of the 2024 Phase 2 Regulations and Recent Statutory Changes*. The CERPA team continues to monitor the Joint Minerals Committee energy-related draft legislation and support SER's podcast, "Energy Frontier: The Wyoming Landscape".

Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI):

EORI Mission: Technical collaborative work directly with the oil and gas industry in the state. The Institute focuses on minimizing potentially stranded oil reserves and adding revenue to the state of Wyoming through additional taxes from increased production.

- The EORI Team
 - Launched a 30-day search for a Senior Petroleum Engineer through UW Talent Acquisition on October 18th.
 - The EORC (Enhanced Oil Recovery Commission) formally requested a Budget Exception (Supplemental Budget request of \$558,802) to fill 2 vacant positions that are critical for EORI. Completed a budget hearing with Governor Gordon on October 10.
- Focused Technical Project Work:
 - Continued advancements with TR Operating's new CO₂ - EOR project (3 Minnelusa fields) in the Powder River Basin
 - Collaborative work advancing on two new CO₂ – EOR projects (Shannon and Frontier reservoirs) in Natrona and Converse counties (Powder River Basin)
 - Developing ASP Chemical Flood (Minnelusa) with Powder River Basin operator
 - Advancing pilot project to test NGLs (Natural Gas Liquids) for near wellbore blockages at Jiggs-Thompson field (Powder River Basin)
 - Implementation of a new waterflood at Skull Creek Field (Powder River Basin)
- Engagement
 - Director Whitman presented on Wyoming CCS/CCUS projects and the Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative (WPCI) at the NASEO (National Association of State Energy Officials) Annual Meeting in NYC in early October.
 - Director Whitman and Director Creager from WEA (Wyoming Energy Authority) testified at the October 9th Joint Minerals Committee hearing in Cheyenne on the current CO₂

Pipeline Infrastructure in the State and potential avenues for the State to incentivize CO₂ pipeline development in Wyoming for EOR.

- EORI is hosting EOR Insights (EORI's platform for interactive public/industry meetings) on November 13 in Casper. Guest speakers will be from Merit Energy and Polymer Technologies discussing 2 successful polymer EOR cost-share pilots in the Big Horn Basin.
- The 4th Quarter 2025 EORC (Enhanced Oil Recovery Commission) meeting is scheduled from 1-5 pm on Tuesday, December 3. This is a "remote" meeting via ZOOM.