

March 22, 2009

Coal conversion

The purpose of the Competitive Energy effort is to get Wyoming in a position to compete for funds the US Department of Energy may have available for use in research focused on advanced coal conversion technologies. A team has been assembled to create pre-proposal documents (5 page concept papers with budget estimates) which can be used to respond to Notice of Intent and Funding Opportunity Announcements issued by the DOE. The team consists of representatives from the School of Energy Research at the University of Wyoming, the Office of Research and Economic Development at the University of Wyoming, the School of Engineering at the University of Wyoming, Western Research Institute, Wyoming State Geological Survey, Wyoming Public Service Commission, Wyoming Infrastructure Authority, Wyoming Pipeline Authority, Wyoming Business Council, the State Energy Office and the Governor's Office.

The approach taken was to identify those areas of strategic importance to the long-term economic development of the state. Five areas became the focus of the team's efforts which are advance coal conversion, carbon capture and storage, energy efficiency, infrastructure, and renewable energy.

With respect to advanced coal conversion proposals have been developed addressing the various technologies employed to convert coal into more environmentally sensitive uses. In addition to examining the methodologies to clean up coal in conventional terms such as mercury removal there is a proposal to use coal to create ethanol for transportation fuel. This would enable us the use a vast indigenous resource and not worry about the food/fuel debate. There are multiple billions of dollars in the ARRA attached to the solutions to these problems for the nation. The hope is to be competitive enough with proposals to attract dollars to Wyoming based research. Realistically, these will be very highly competitive arenas but the goal of

this effort is to make a strong, solid effort telling the Wyoming story.

Given the extremely competitive nature of this source of funds it is not possible to give a firm estimate of the money that may flow to Wyoming.