

March 22, 2009

Renewable Energy

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 renewable energy. For the State this generally means renewable wind energy.

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 renewable energy the case is very strong for wind power in Wyoming. The state has nearly 50% of the class five and above on shore wind in the country. This helps explain why there are nearly 30 wind development companies interested in doing business in Wyoming. Additionally, there are currently six major interstate transmission lines in various stages of development whose mission is to move the wind power to market in the load centers of the west. The connection between renewable energy and infrastructure are obvious in that the enormous wind resource cannot be developed without the connecting transmission. Other

proposals in this area are focused on smaller renewable projects.

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.

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