

Board of Trustees Update: July 2024

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

SER Administration:

- Thanks to support from the UW Foundation, SER has increased its focus on philanthropic fundraising, with some positive outcomes to be announced soon. With this success, SER's matching funds appropriated in 2023 (\$1.5 million) will be fully committed prior to July 1, 2024 and the matching funds appropriated in 2024 (\$2 million) will be nearly fully committed as of July 1, 2024.
- The Energy Resources Council will meet on August 22-23, 2024

SER Academics:

- SER and CEPS are actively working on our feasibility studies for technical nuclear energy certificates following the NOI approval in fall 2023. Now that funding has been secured, we are ready to move forward.
- SER is actively working on a required Program Review.
- SER's yearly report to our secondary accrediting body, AAPL has been submitted.

SER Outreach:

- Completed the Rocky Mountain Professional Landman Conference – April 29, 2024
- Fall planning underway for distinguished speakers series, Energy Day coordination, and at least two conferences

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.

- SER was selected by the Department of Energy for several large-scale CO₂ storage demonstration projects under the DOE's CarbonSAFE program. These projects have taken far longer than expected to implement, but SER has been told that the projects will start in July 2024, which should lead to a noticeable increase in UW's research expenditures.
- CEGR (Center for Economic Geology Research) has hired an Oil and Gas Program Manager to oversee the Mowry Program and to help expand SER/University oil and gas research focus, and interagency collaboration with Wyoming state agencies, including Wyoming State Geological Survey (WSGS) and Wyoming Oil and Gas Commission (WOGCC), and strengthen collaboration with the Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI). The candidate started on June 3.

- H2ERC (Hydrogen Energy Research Center) has commenced work on a field pilot project to clean-up produced water and convert it into hydrogen using natural gas. The field pilot is in collaboration with Los Alamos National Laboratories, Willims, and EPC. The project will run for two years and be field-tested in Carbon County.
- CCCC (Center for Carbon Capture and Conversion) and Western Research Institute (WRI) continue to advance solvent extraction research, scale-up and engineering design – this process is used to convert Wyoming coal into asphalt binder. The solvent extraction pilot plant construction is almost complete at the UW Lutz. This will allow the team to provide much needed testing quantities for potential industrial partners in both the roofing and paving industries.

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 severance taxes from increased production.

- The EORI Team
 - Rebuilding the EORI culture focused on our Mission, Team Unity and Collaboration
 - Paul Davis will be joining the EORI team as a Senior Geologist on August 1, 2024
 - Paul is relocating to Casper from Houston, TX.
 - We are in the process of hiring a new Senior Petroleum Engineer to replace Eric Robertson who left EORI on May 3, 2024
- Focused Technical Project Work:
 - 3 DOE Funded Projects
 - Unlocking the Tight Oil Reservoirs of the Powder River Basin
 - WY Trails Carbon Hub – CO₂ Pipeline Feed Study
 - Developing CO₂ – EOR and Associated Storage within the Residual Oil Zone Fairways of the Powder River Basin
 - Current Industry Collaborative Projects
 - Skull Creek Field (Muddy, Powder River Basin) - NGL EOR project
 - Polymer Pilot Project in the Big Horn Basin with Merit Energy
 - Microbial EOR Project with Amplify Energy at Wertz Field in the Greater Green River Basin
 - Regional Minnelusa 3D Seismic project with 6 industry partners