

Grant Round Application for LRC-LRC-LXVII (67)
INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS
LRC-LXVII (67) – A

“Annual Lignite Energy Council Education Seminar: Energy, Economics & Environment”

Submitted by Lignite Energy Council

Request for: \$156,000; Total Project Costs: \$312,000

Principal Investigator: Lignite Energy Council; Project Duration: 24 months

Description of Project: This application requests funding for 50% of the costs of the Lignite Energy Council’s Annual Teachers Seminar for two years (\$78,000 annually). This purpose of this seminar is to educate teachers from North Dakota and neighboring states about the economic benefits, career opportunities and operations of the lignite industry, enabling them to educate their students and the industry.

Technical Peer Reviewers’ Key Comments:

Both Reviewers:

- Objectives: Exceptionally Clear
- Achievability: certainly achievable; most likely achievable
- Background: Better than average; exceptional

Reviewer 01-01:

Creating a favorable image for the Lignite industry with educators and students will be critical to the long-term success of the industry in meeting their talent needs and gaining favorable public opinion supporting the use of lignite as a stable and consistent source of electricity and synthetic natural gas.

Recommendation: Fund

Reviewer 01-02:

The Lignite Education Seminar is extremely valuable not only to the lignite industry but to the State of North Dakota and to educators across the region. I struggle with the proposed budget and the funding request for this otherwise excellent grant request.

Recommendation: Fund

Executive Director’s Recommendation: Fund (Small research funds)

The Lignite Energy Council Annual Teachers’ Seminar has been offered since 1986. This is the first time the Council has requested funding from the Industrial Commission Lignite Research Program. During the 2009 Legislative session the Lignite Research Program was expanded to allow for funding of educational projects and the Seminar fits the definition of an educational effort. Outreach to teachers who in turn influence students and parents is a key to meeting Program priorities. I am surprised that there is no cash match provided in this grant application. That is something we generally require on grant applications. Should the Lignite Research Council recommend funding for this project, at a minimum the following contingency should be included:

- Documentation be provided of the In-Kind Match

Conflict of Interest: Lignite Energy Council and members of the Lignite Energy Council