

**Grant Round Application for LRC-LXXVIII (78)**  
**INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**  
**LRC-LXXVIII – C**

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

Submitted by Lignite Energy Council

Request for: \$80,000; Total Project Costs: \$160,000

Principal Investigator: Lignite Energy Council; Project Duration: 12 months

**Description of Project:** This application requests funding to continue the annual education seminars for one year. The Teachers Seminar is held in June of each year for four-days and includes presentations on the Bismarck State College Campus for three days and a one-day tour of Coal Country. The lignite presentations and panel discussions include history, geology, mining and reclamation, converting lignite to electricity, converting lignite to synthetic natural gas, economics of the lignite industry, career opportunities, environmental issues facing the lignite industry, transmission and research and development topics.

**Technical Peer Reviewers’ Key Comments:**

**Reviewer 01-01:**

Reviewer 01 states this is clearly an important program...is a highly regarded program and the funding is critical to its success.

**Recommendation: Fund**

**Reviewer 01-02:**

Reviewer 02 indicated a good program - good reach of people for an appropriate value. ...would like to have seen more specific survey results and how that’s driven changes to the seminar format...was impressed to see that seminar participants develop lesson plans that are shared with others.

**Recommendation: Fund**

**Reviewer 01-03:**

Reviewer 03 stated “Encourage continued measuring of results to ensure training is having the desired impact. Would consider surveying new industry employees as well to learn how and why they chose the profession, and what those employees believe would have helped them prepare for such a career.

**Recommendation: Fund**

**Executive Director’s Recommendation: Fund**

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