

Grant Round Application for LRC-LXXIX (79)
INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

"Annual Lignite Energy Council Education Program"

Submitted by Lignite Energy Council (LEC)

Request for: \$100,000; Total Project Costs: \$211,000

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

Description of Project: This application requests funding for one year to continue the annual Lignite Education Seminar and the expansion of the Lignite Education Seminar to an all-encompassing Education Program. The requested funding will be used for the four-day teacher's seminar as well as a two-day North Dakota Energy Tour for college professors and administrators. The LEC has identified some additional opportunities to enhance the Seminar--one example is the development of the "Electricity from Lignite Go-Box" which would be available for school districts to check-out and use in the classroom. The LEC noted in the application that they will be focusing more attention on updating and broadening their library of educational videos that showcase various aspects of the lignite industry such as mining and reclamation or converting lignite into electricity or synthetic natural gas.

Technical Peer Reviewers' Key Comments:

Reviewer 01-01:

Reviewer 01 states seminar budget is realistic. When you consider the one-time expense of training each teacher multiplied by the number of students the teachers will share the information with, the expense is even more reasonable.

There, however, does not seem to be a means in place of measuring whether or not there is any impact on the students' impressions of the industry or if the program has had any impact on growing the industry's workforce.

Recommendation: Fund

Reviewer 01-02:

Reviewer 02 indicated the applicant should look at improving educational materials (videos) and continue with the sharing of quality lesson plans in order to have higher marks for lesson plan integration.

Recommendation: Fund

Executive Director's Recommendation: **Fund.** The funding requested is \$20,000 more than what had been authorized last year. However, with the transition to a broader Energy Program the increase in funding is appropriate.

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