

Grant Round Application for LRC-LXXXI (81)
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: \$234,000

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

Description of Project: The applicant is requesting funding for one year to continue the Lignite Education Program which includes the annual four-day Lignite Education Seminar. The objective of this program is to educate teachers, students and members of the general public about career opportunities, economic benefits and operations of the lignite industry. The requested funding will be used to conduct the Lignite Education Seminar, program management and video costs. The video costs relate to the development of additional videos -- Lignite 101; North Dakota Lignite Geology, Mining and Reclamation; Electricity Generation and Coal Conversion and Environmental Impact/Stewardship.

Technical Peer Reviewers' Key Comments:

Reviewer 01-01:

Reviewer 01 states this project meets the goals of the Commission and should be funded. I am encouraged to see the "lesson plan" challenge. It is a great way to reward teachers and generate ideas to share with other teachers. Recommend funding but only once budget is clarified to better reflect actual cost estimates related to the video costs.

Recommendation: Fund

Reviewer 01-02:

Reviewer 02 indicated that the evolution of the seminar approach and the educational plan demonstrates that the LEC has taken careful consideration of the audience and the best way to get their message across. By consistently gathering survey results, they are well-poised to engage with instructors to meet their goal of promoting the industry in a fashion to which students will be more likely to respond. Video seems to be a really good avenue to reach a wider audience and engage a modern generation.

Recommendation: Fund

Executive Director's Recommendation: **Fund** with the contingency that the applicant clarifies the timeline for the video work to be completed and the budget costs related to the video work.

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