

TECHNICAL REVIEWER RATING SUMMARY

G-011-A

Petroleum Safety and Technology Center

Submitted by NW North Dakota Workforce Training Division

Principal Investigator: Deanette Piesik

Request for \$87,900; Total Project Costs \$1,235,638

Duration: 12 months

Rating Category	Weighting Factor	Technical Reviewer		Average Weighted Score
		11A-01 Rating	11A-02 Rating	
Objective	9	5	3	36.0
Availability	9	4	3	31.5
Methodology	7	4	2	21.0
Contribution	7	1	3	14.0
Awareness	5	4	4	20.0
Background	5	4	4	20.0
Project Management	2	3	2	5.0
Equipment Purchase	2	4	2	6.0
Facilities	2	3	3	6.0
Budget	2	4	3	7.0
Average Weighted Score		184	149	166.5
Maximum Weighted Score				250

OVERALL RECOMMENDATION

FUND	X
FUNDING TO BE CONSIDERED	X
DO NOT FUND	

1. *The objectives or goals of the proposed project with respect to clarity and consistency with North Dakota Industrial Commission/Oil and Gas Research Council goals are: 1 – very unclear; 2 – unclear; 3 – clear; 4 – very clear; or 5 – exceptionally clear.*

Reviewer 011A-01 (Rating: 5)

The proposed project is very consistent with the following Research Council goals:

- Preserve and create jobs involved in the exploration, production and utilization of North Dakota's oil and gas resources
- Promote Public Awareness of the benefits and opportunities provided by the North Dakota oil and gas industry.
- Have the highest potential for creating new oil and gas jobs, wealth, and tax revenues for North Dakota.

Reviewer 011A-02 (Rating: 3)

The application is not well stated, but seeks assistance with a service rig training program within the Petroleum Safety and Technology Center at WSC. Providing training for new employees (rig hands) helps to "preserve and create jobs" as per the statutory goals of the ND Oil and Gas Research Program. (However, it takes the reader some time to get to that realization given the manner in which the application is submitted).

2. *With the approach suggested and time and budget available, the objectives are: 1 – not achievable; 2 – possibly achievable; 3 – likely achievable; 4 – most likely achievable; or 5 – certainly achievable.*

Reviewer 011A-01 (Rating: 4)

It appears that the objectives are very achievable as proposed.

Reviewer 011A-02 (Rating: 3)

With the demonstrated support of industry, establishing a Service Rig Training program at WSC seems quite achievable. (The applicant suggests that the program will "create" jobs, which seems unachievable and is perhaps an overstatement of the objective of the program). Nonetheless, a training program seems attainable given the budget and time frame.

3. *The quality of the methodology displayed in the proposal is: 1 – well below average; 2 – below average; 3 – average; 4 – above average; or 5 – well above average.*

Reviewer 011A-01 (Rating: 4)

The quality of the methodology in the proposal is very good.

Reviewer 011A-02 (Rating: 2)

As stated above, the application in my view is not well stated. The point, the reader is to discern is that funding is sought to assist in launching a service rig training program at WSC to assist in meeting service rig employment needs in western North Dakota and eastern Montana. Additionally, it is not clear how the training is to be marketed and launched. For example the application states:

- Develop Rig Classes (January-February 2007)
- Offer Courses on a regular monthly/weekly basis
- Develop additional training programs (Drilling Course, Roustabout Training, Compressor Training, Transport Driver Training)

These statements appear uncertain, and incongruous (e.g. drilling courses and roustabout training have little to do with Service Rig training).

4. *The scientific and/or technical contribution of the proposed work to specifically address North Dakota Industrial Commission/Oil and Gas Research Council goals will likely be: 1 – extremely small; 2 – small; 3 – significant; 4 – very significant; or 5 – extremely significant.*

Reviewer 011A-01 (Rating: 1)

This proposal will have little or no scientific and/or technical contribution to the goals of the Council.

Reviewer 011A-02 (Rating: 3)

Securing an ongoing employment training program in western North Dakota will provide significant human capital that is necessary in the industry. Although I am critical of the style of the application and some of its contents the need is clear.

5. *The principal investigator's awareness of current research activity and published literature as evidenced by literature referenced and its interpretation and by the reference to unpublished research related to the proposal is: 1 – very limited; 2 – limited; 3 – adequate; 4 – better than average; or 5 – exceptional.*

Reviewer 011A-01 (Rating: 4)

The principal investigator's awareness of current research activity and published literature on the subject of the proposal is better than average.

Reviewer 011A-02 (Rating: 4)

No Comment, other than reviewer is very much aware of the industry and its need for training and employees.

6. *The background of the investigator(s) as related to the proposed work is: 1 – very limited; 2 – limited; 3 – adequate; 4 – better than average; or 5 – exceptional.*

Reviewer 011A-01 (Rating: 4)

The proposal displays that the investigator has a better than average background for the proposed work.

Reviewer 011A-02 (Rating: 4)

No Comment.

7. *The project management plan, including a well-defined milestone chart, schedule, financial plan, and plan for communications among the investigators and subcontractors, if any, is: 1 – very inadequate; 2 – inadequate; 3 – adequate; 4 – very good; or 5 – exceptionally good.*

Reviewer 011A-01 (Rating: 3)

The management plan, milestone chart, schedule and financial plan as presented in the proposal appear to be adequate.

Reviewer 011A-02 (Rating: 2)

As per #3 above, it is not clear to me how funds will be used, how the program will be marketed and the appropriateness of additional course design before the primary objective of a Service Rig Training Program is completed. I also tend to discount contributions by WSC (\$42,000 salary for ISTP specialist which is presumably an FTE dedicated to other efforts besides the service rig program). I am also unclear on the budget need for "The position will need to attend professional development conferences and trainings. This will add to their skill set" as stated in the application.

8. *The proposed purchase of equipment is: 1 – extremely poorly justified; 2 – poorly justified; 3 – justified; 4 – well justified; or 5 – extremely well justified. (Circle 5 if no equipment is to be purchased.)*

Reviewer 011A-01 (Rating: 4)

The proposed purchase of equipment was well justified in the proposal.

Reviewer 011A-02 (Rating: 2)

The justification for equipment is not described or is otherwise vague and suggests that equipment will be donated.

9. *The facilities and equipment available and to be purchased for the proposed research are: 1 – very inadequate; 2 – inadequate; 3 – adequate; 4 – notably good; or 5 – exceptionally good.*

Reviewer 011A-01 (Rating: 3)

It appears that the facilities and equipment available to be purchased or currently in place are adequate to carry out the goals of the proposal.

Reviewer 011A-02 (Rating: 3)

Facilities are described adequately.

10. *The proposed budget “value”¹ relative to the outlined work and the financial commitment from other sources is of: 1 – very low value; 2 – low value; 3 – average value; 4 – high value; or 5 – very high value. (See below)*

Reviewer 011A-01 (Rating: 4)

The proposed budget demonstrates very high value relative to the outline of work and financial commitment from other sources.

Reviewer 011A-02 (Rating: 3)

As stated above, the need and the program will be useful for the industry. The application is perhaps the beginning of a greater value to North Dakota and the industry. Although I am critical of the style, and some content the direction of the program is useful and provides value to the industry and the people of North Dakota, provided it is well executed. Significant support from industry relieves some concerns described herein.

Section C. Overall Comments and Recommendations:

Please comment in a general way about the merits and flaws of the proposed project and make a recommendation whether or not to fund.

Reviewer 11A-01 (FUND)

This is a very worthy proposal and will be of great benefit to the oil & gas industry and to the State of ND. It will help to address the shortage of qualified entry level employees for the industry which is seriously needed for the continued growth of the industry that in turn will help to grow ND. This proposal is well within the goals and objectives of the Research Council and is well qualified for funding.

Reviewer 11A-02 (Funding to be Considered)

Consider funding

¹ “Value” – *The value of the projected work and technical outcome for the budgeted amount of the project, based on your estimate of what the work might cost in research settings with which you are familiar.*

Financial commitment from other sources – *A minimum of 50% of the total project must come from other sources to meet the program guidelines. Support less than 50% from Industrial Commission sources should be evaluated as favorable to the application.*