

R001-G
**“Abundant Energy: A Proposal for Wind Power
Development and Technical Education”**
Submitted by Lake Region State College
Principal Investigator: Sharon L. Etemad
Request for \$500,000; Total Project Costs \$3,299,900

Technical Advisor’s comments:

- Both reviewers give this application a “Funding May Be Considered” rating, and both state in their narratives that they are opposed to funding in its present form but feel the underlying concepts have enough merit to warrant reconsideration of a revised and more complete proposal.
- The matching funds of \$2.8 million had not been secured at the time of application. The proposed sources for these funds are: private financing (\$1.0 million), an appropriation from the Legislative Budget Commission (\$1.736 million) and an in-kind contribution (\$64,000) from LRSC.
- The development of a wind turbine technician training program would be a very positive development for the North Dakota renewable energy industry. One reviewer, however, felt the narrative “greatly overstated the number of technicians needed for wind energy projects” and the other commented that the estimated curriculum development cost of \$35,000 appears low.
- Both reviewers feel the research value of the turbine installation would be relatively low, but that it could be a valuable demonstration project. One reviewer felt it would be particularly interesting to study the potential to store wind generated energy in the form of heat for use during times when the wind wasn’t blowing.
- The reviewers also identify a number of other areas where additional information is required in order to determine project feasibility.
- In response to the reviewers’ comments, the applicant has provided extensive clarifying information along with an engineering report on wind turbine feasibility at the facility.

Technical Advisor’s recommendation:

Both reviewers’ give this project a “Funding May Be Considered” rating. As I see it, however, there are at least two significant issues for the Council to consider:

1. Is the proposed matching funding acceptable, given its sources and lack of firmness?
2. Does the clarifying information, which has not received outside technical review, provide a sufficient level of comfort in addressing the reviewers’ concerns?

If the Council believes there is a problem with either area, I advise them to request and encourage the applicant to revise their proposal and resubmit it for a future funding round.