

R003-B
“Fischer-Tropsch Fuels Development”
Submitted by the Energy & Environmental Research Center
Principal Investigator: Bruce Folkedahl
Request for \$189,034; Total Project Costs \$899,820

Technical Advisor’s comments:

- One reviewer recommends funding; one recommends fund may be considered; and one recommends do not fund.
- The reviewer with the do not fund recommendation feels that specific North Dakota biomass feedstock and biomass gasification issues need to be resolved before a Fischer-Tropsch (F-T) catalyst evaluation and development program are initiated. The reviewer also provides a list of specific questions.
- The reviewer recommending funding may be considered has concerns regarding the lack of detail in the background and methodologies sections.
- Two reviewers question whether development of a new F-T catalyst is the optimum approach or if purchasing an existing F-T catalyst would be more appropriate.
- One reviewer questions why this grant is being requested, since the project appears to be fully funded by DOE.
- The applicant provides a significant amount of supplemental information in his clarification comments. The Council is cautioned, however, that this material has not been evaluated by the technical reviewers.
- Matching funds are in place.

Technical Advisor’s recommendation:

As the reviewers note, there are many questions left unanswered by this proposal. That situation, however, is not unusual in an early stage research project such as this.

This project would leverage a relatively modest state investment with substantial DOE funding and with resources obtained from other EERC projects. On the negative side, even if the project is successful, a considerable amount of additional effort would likely be required to commercialize the technology.

Technical Advisor recommends approval contingent upon the following items:

- Documentation demonstrating the matching funds, including letters of commitment from other funding sources, must be submitted to the Industrial Commission within sixty days of approval by the Commission.
- The project data and reports shall be provided to the Department of Commerce & Renewable Energy Council in both electronic and hard-copy formats with permission for unrestricted distribution. The electronic versions shall be in a suitable format for hosting on the Department of Commerce and Renewable Energy Council web sites.