
Submitted by: UND EERC.
Principal Investigator: Thomas Erickson
Project Duration: 20 months
Request for: $750,000
Total Project Costs: $2,450,000

The EERC is proposing to lead a team of nearly 30 members focused on producing rare-earth elements (REEs), critical minerals (CMs), and nonfuel carbon-based products (CBPs) from Williston Basin coals. The EERC has received word of award from the DOE, providing a strong leveraging of NDIC project funding. The goal of the Williston Basin CORE-CM Initiative is to lay the foundation for new industry, as well as drive the expansion and transformation of the existing coal and coal-based resources industry in the Williston Basin to produce REEs, CMs, and CBPs. The initial phase that is currently proposed, is focused on gathering and assessing the existing available data for REEs, CMs, and CBPs in the Williston Basin, identifying data gaps that need to be filled, and developing the strategies necessary to move forward with demonstrations along the entire supply chain.

Technical Advisor’s Recommendation:

Fund – The proposed project is a great fit for the Lignite Research Program, as part of the pursuit of emerging markets for North Dakota lignite. All three of the technical reviewers recommended funding, and the proposal received an average score of 224.3 out of 250. The project provides a strong leverage of state funding by obtaining funding from the DOE.

Funding would be subject to the following:

- Technical advisor participates in project reviews.
  - Discuss standards of success.
- Technical advisor reviews the project management plan with the project team.
  - Review details of industry cost share

Conflicts of Interest: