

AGENDA
LIGNITE RESEARCH COUNCIL MEETING
GRANT ROUND LRC (109)

Friday, May 8, 2026 - 8:30 a.m. (CT)

Bismarck State College – National Energy Center of Excellence Room #335
1200 Schafer St., Bismarck, ND 58501

- I. **Call to Order** – Jonathan Fortner
 - **Welcome and Introduction** of Jason Laumb, LEC Vice President of Research & Development and Technical Advisor of the Lignite Research Program
 - **Recognition and Appreciation** of Mike Holmes for his dedicated service
 - **Grant Management System** Update and Q&A

- II. **Approval of Minutes**

LRC Grant Round, November 18, 2025 – Jonathan Fortner

 - ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes

- III. **Updates**
 - Project Management and Financial Report – Jordan Kannianen
 - R&D Update and Path forward – Mike Holmes

- IV. **Presentation of Proposals:**

Project 109A

Introduced by Jason Laumb. Presented by Greg Henthorne.

LRC-109A: The Forge Project: Rare Earths and Critical Materials Integration

Submitted by: Ore Spring Materials, LLC, by AmeriCarbon Enterprises, LLC.

Principal Investigator: Greg Henthorne

Request for: \$1,175,000 Total Project Costs: \$4,600,000

Project Duration: 24 months

- Technical Peer Reviewers' Ratings and Comments
 - Summary and Recommendation
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Project 109B

Introduced by Jordan Kannianen. Presented by Retha Mattern.

LRC-109B: Lignite Energy Council Education Program

Submitted by: Lignite Energy Council

Principal Investigator: Retha Mattern

Request for: \$550,000 Total Project Costs: \$1,150,000

Project Duration: 39 months

- Technical Peer Reviewers' Ratings and Comments
- Summary and Recommendation

Project 109C

Introduced by Mike Holmes. Presented by Jim Sorensen.

LRC-109C: Bakken Cracking the Code 2.0: Broad Infrastructure and Development for CO₂-Based EOR

Submitted by: EERC

Principal Investigator: Jim Sorensen

Request for: \$5,000,000 Total Project Costs: \$10,000,000

Project Duration: 30 months

- Technical Peer Reviewers' Ratings and Comments
 - Summary and Recommendation
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Project 109D

Introduced by Jason Laumb. Presented by Alex Benson.

LRC-109D: Demonstration of REE-CM Exploration and Characterization Technologies for ND Lignite

Submitted by: Microbeam Technology

Principal Investigator: Alex Benson

Request for: \$971,225 Total Project Costs: \$1,956,105

Project Duration: 32 months

- Technical Peer Reviewers' Ratings and Comments
 - Summary and Recommendation
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V. **Voting Process**

ACTION ITEM: Voting on Proposals

VI. **Voting Results and Other Business**

- Suggested Lignite Research Program Logo

VII. **2025/2026 Calendar**

- Industrial Commission Meeting: May 12, 2026
- Fall Grant Deadline – October 1, 2026
- Fall LRC Meeting – November 12, 2026

VIII. **Adjourn**

Microsoft Teams

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/26575142631273?p=yT6SuUF7Y1jBQbH4pp>

Meeting ID: 265 751 426 312 73

Passcode: Df9Mf9pF

Dial in by phone: [+1 332-249-0500.841561356#](tel:+13322490500841561356)

Phone conference ID: 841 561 356#