Wyoming Energy Dominance Fund

Guidelines and Information

Updated: August 2026

Guidelines on Wyoming Energy Dominance Fund

- Pursuant to 2026 Senate Enrolled Act. 69, the Wyoming Energy Dominance Fund (WEDF) was established for purposes of providing matching funds for private or federal funding for applied research, demonstration, pilot projects or commercial deployment projects related to Wyoming energy needs, including, coal innovation, coal-fired electricity, trona and bentonite innovation projects, natural gas, enhanced oil recovery, pipeline infrastructure, energy exports, uranium conversion, uranium enrichment, fuel fabrication, rare earth and critical mineral processing, separation and manufacturing, baseload energy development and deployment and grid innovations.
- Pursuant to 2026 Senate Enrolled No. 69, wind and solar projects are ineligible for funding through the WEDF program.
- The WEA is the designated entity for administration, including receipt and processing of funding requests, the review and recommendation process, negotiating and executing funding agreements, and project monitoring, processing, and reporting.
- This document provides guidelines for interested parties to apply for energy dominance funds, including project eligibility and a protocol for funding approval.
- The legislative language is attached for reference in the Exhibit.
- The WEA will accept submissions for projects on a continual basis until funds are expended or the legislative appropriation expires, with reviews of submissions tri-annually.

Eligibility

The program is open to individuals and companies seeking matching funds to meet the purposes of WEDF. Federal and/or private funds are eligible as cash match for WEDF funding.

*In-kind match will not be counted as matching funds.

Project Evaluation Criteria

The approval process assesses the application's ability to meet the required criteria below. This is a competitive process, meeting the criteria below does not imply a guarantee that an applicant will be invited to submit a full application.

Does the applicant and the proposed project:

1. Address desired actions and outcomes of the project; is the project directly related to Wyoming's energy needs including, coal innovation, coal-fired electricity, trona and

bentonite innovation projects, natural gas, enhanced oil recovery, pipeline infrastructure, energy exports, uranium conversion, uranium enrichment, fuel fabrication, rare earth and critical mineral processing, separation and manufacturing, baseload energy development and deployment, and grid innovations.
2. Committed and verifiable dollar-for-dollar funding match.
3. Provide a return on investment for Wyoming that flows from the expected impact(s) of the project.
4. Significantly advances technology and/or will likely make progress toward a commercial-scale deployment of project(s) that directly benefit Wyoming (e.g., expected job creation, value added to existing Wyoming industries and products, potential genesis of new industries and products).
5. Have a high level of probability of achieving defined objectives and metrics of success, and have an experienced team with technical skills and capacity to successfully undertake the project.

Types of Funding Available

The WEDF has the ability to award loan(s), grant(s) and/or a mix of both; for the desired actions and outcomes listed above.

Loan Language - Pursuant to SF0123, Sec. 3(ii) Provide loans as determined by the Wyoming energy authority, for applied research, demonstration projects, pilot projects and commercial deployment projects related to Wyoming energy needs, including coal innovation, coal-fired electricity, trona and bentonite development projects, natural gas, enhanced oil recovery, pipeline infrastructure, energy exports, uranium conversion, uranium enrichment, fuel fabrication, rare earth and critical mineral processing and manufacturing, baseload energy development and deployment and grid innovation. Loans shall not be provided for wind or solar energy projects. Loans provided under this paragraph shall at a minimum:

(A) Be made only if the applicant demonstrates before receipt of the loan that all forecasted project costs will be funded. The applicant shall identify the source of all funds to be used for the project in a written feasibility level business case provided to the WEA at the time of loan application;

(B) Be adequately collateralized as determined by the WEA;

(C) Credit all repayments of loans under this paragraph to the permanent Wyoming mineral trust fund reserve account;

(D) Ensure that interest rates, if applicable, shall be consistent with the federal funds rate as of the date of the application, provided that any interest rate for loans set shall be the effective federal funds rate as reported by the federal reserve bank of New York minus one percent (1%), but in no case shall the rate be lower than zero percent (0%);

(E) Charge the applicant a loan origination fee or loan guarantee fee of not less than one percent (1%) of the loan amount made from funds from the Wyoming Energy Dominance Fund;

(F) The maximum loan duration of any loan provided under this paragraph shall be not more than ten (10) years;

(G) The WEA may require other terms and conditions on the loans provided as deemed necessary.

Grant language - Pursuant to SF0123, Sec. 3(i) Provide grants for private or federal funding for applied research, demonstration, pilot projects or commercial development projects related to Wyoming energy needs, including coal innovation, coal-fired electricity, trona and bentonite development projects, natural gas, enhanced oil recovery, pipeline infrastructure, energy exports, uranium conversion, uranium enrichment, fuel fabrication, rare earth and critical mineral processing, separation and manufacturing, baseload energy development and deployment and grid innovations. Grants shall not be provided for wind or solar energy projects. For purposes of this paragraph:

(A) Expenditure of funds awarded under this paragraph shall be conditioned upon receipt of matching funds in a ratio of one dollar ($1.00) of funds from the Wyoming energy dominance fund to not less than one dollar ($1.00) of nonstate funds;

(B) Project matching funds shall be secured by the applicant before a grant or award is issued pursuant to this paragraph;

(C) In-kind contributions shall not be eligible as matching funds under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;

(D) Prior investment or capital spent by the applicant before an application for funds is filed shall not be eligible as matching funds under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

WEDF Process

Submissions will be based on a two-phase process, consisting of a concept paper followed by an invitation to submit a formal application, as outlined below.

Phase 1: Concept Paper

1. Drafting a concept paper that meets the submission requirements by Project Proponent.
2. Submission of concept paper using WEDF application website.
3. Compliance review by WEA.
4. WEA will evaluate concept papers and make one of the following recommendations. Potential results:
    a. Concept paper does not meet project criteria and Project Proponent is informed the submission is denied.
    b. Project Proponents are not invited to submit a formal application, but feedback is provided that may be beneficial for a future submission or with recommendations about alternative funding sources.
    c. Project Proponent is invited to submit a formal application.
5. If denied, the process for Project Proponent is closed and Project Proponent receives a letter or email of denial. There is no right to appeal or otherwise challenge the denial.

Phase 2: Full Application

1. If the Project Proponent is invited to submit a formal application, the evaluation criteria remain the same, but the evaluation is based solely upon the information contained in the detailed application.
2. Upon receipt of applications, the Review Committee will evaluate and make one of the following recommendations. Potential results:
    a. No funding is recommended, application is closed, and Project Proponent receives a letter or email of denial.
    b. Funding as requested or modified is recommended and Project Proponent's application is submitted to the Office of the Attorney General, the Management Council of the Wyoming Legislature, and Office of the Governor for review.
3. A thirty (30) day public comment period is open to receive input from the public and all public comments will be reviewed and considered by the WEA. A summary will be provided to the Governor.
    a. The Management Council of the Wyoming Legislature shall review and make recommendations on the proposed expenditures of funds from the WEDF by a majority vote.
    b. The Office of the Attorney General shall provide an opinion certifying the legality of each grant or loan involving funds disbursed or used from the WEDF. Opinion shall be shared with the WEA.
    c. The Governor shall review applications and reserves the right, without limitation or qualification, to consider any other criteria or factors relevant to provide a balanced programmatic effort and ultimately return value to the State of Wyoming.
    d. Decisions by the Review Committee, the WEA, and the Governor are final and are not subject to appeal.
4. Final decision is conducted by the Office of the Governor, which will result in the drafting of a letter of award or denial.
    a. If a project is approved for funding by the Governor
        i. WEA will begin funding agreement negotiations. If federal funds are a part of the project, federal contract negotiations may commence.
        ii. Review and approval as to form and content of the funding agreement by the Wyoming Office of the Attorney General.
        iii. Proposed WEDF funding and project goals will be reported to the Management Council, Joint Appropriations Committee and Joint Minerals Committee of the Wyoming Legislature, not less than thirty (30) days prior to any expenditure being made.
    b. If denied, the application is closed. There is no right to appeal or otherwise challenge the denial.
5. Formal acceptance by the Office of the Governor and funding agreement execution. Any work undertaken prior to an executed funding agreement is at the applicant's risk and will not be reimbursed.

Concept Papers, Requests for Applications Timeline

Submissions for WEDF will be accepted until either the legislative appropriation expires or all funds are expended or encumbered, whichever comes first. The WEA will accept and review concept papers and subsequent applications on a tri-annual basis on March 1, July 1, and November 1, submissions will be accepted until 5:00 PM Mountain Time. If the submission deadline falls on a weekend or a Wyoming public holiday, submissions will be accepted until 5:00 PM Mountain Time on the next regular workday.

WEDF Review Committee

The voting members of the WEDF Review Committee include, but are not limited to; representatives from the WEA, Wyoming State Geological Survey, Office of the Governor, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, and the Wyoming Business Council. Non-voting staff and technical advisors may be invited to review and comment on a concept paper or application upon request by the WEA or Review Committee. Voting and non-voting members shall only discuss the application and project information and other formal applications with other members of the Review Committee and designated representatives of WEA.

Reporting/Briefings

The WEDF recipient will provide the WEA with quarterly project progress reports and final technical and final executive summary reports upon project completion.

Concept Paper Requirements

Purpose:

The purpose of the WEDF, administered by the WEA, is to provide matching funds to energy projects in Wyoming for applied research, demonstration, pilot projects or commercial deployment projects related to Wyoming energy needs, including, coal innovation, coal-fired electricity, trona and bentonite innovation projects, natural gas, enhanced oil recovery, pipeline infrastructure, energy exports, uranium conversion, uranium enrichment, fuel fabrication, rare earth and critical mineral processing, separation and manufacturing, baseload energy development and deployment and grid innovations. . Please refer to the Wyoming Energy Dominance Fund Guidelines and Information for program details. The responses to the requirements are completed via a Google Form. The link to the form is on the Wyoming Energy Authority website. **A Google account is required for submission**.

WYOMING ENERGY DOMINANCE FUND CONCEPT PAPER REQUIREMENTS

Do not use abbreviations or acronyms in your submission. Chemical symbols may be used (ex: CO_2 instead of carbon dioxide). Otherwise, “when in doubt, spell it out.”

- **Project Name**
- **Project Proponent and contact information**
- **Executive Summary**
- **Concept Paper:** A separate attachment, maximum 5,000 words, Calibri 11pt font. Include project description, objective, problem statement, desired outcomes, metrics for success, probability of securing non-WEDF funds, company and/or personnel experience, and if applicable, other project partners and their key representatives.
- **Location of Proposed Project**: Must be in Wyoming.
- **Project Type:** Applied research, demonstration, pilot, commercial.
- **Estimated Project Duration:** Approximate start and completion dates
- **Amount requested from WEDF**
- **Funding Type:** Loan, Grant, Mix: Grant and Loan
- **Grant Justification Statement**
- **Source of Match from Federal, Private, or Other Funds**
- **Federal funds award?**

- **Amount of Match from Federal, Private, or Other Funds:** Match must be in the ratio of one dollar ($1.00) of WEDF funds to not less than one dollar ($1.00) of matching funds. In-kind match is not allowed. Match must be secured prior to a potential WEDF award.
- **Total Project Cost**
- **Date that Non-WEDF Funding will be Available for Match (month/year)**
- **Date that WEDF funds will need to be available (month/year)**
- **Budget:** A separate attachment, maximum 1 page, Calibri 11pt font. Include sources and uses of funds. For sources, indicate when the funds will be available.
  *Match Verification is requested with Budget submission.
- **Return on Investment Statement:** Up to 5,000 words entered into the Google form. Please describe how the project will induce a public benefit, including preserving existing jobs and energy production or creating new jobs and new production of Wyoming's resources, economic benefits, etc., to Wyoming. Please show a calculation of the expected return on investment to Wyoming.
- **OTHER** Do not resubmit the application here. Only add any additional documentation or details as an appendix. If applicable, provide details of the federal funding source, including the FOA title, program area, match ratio, and any other constraints, requirements or details considered pertinent.

NOTE: All comments, applications and proposals are subject to public records requests under the Wyoming Public Records Act (W.S.A. §§ 16-4-201-205). Applications and associated materials, exclusive of trade secrets, privileged information, and confidential commercial, financial, geological or geophysical data, which are not subject to public information statutes as described in Wyoming Statute § 16-4-203(d)(v), will be made readily available for public access as the entire application is considered a public record.

Proposal and Funding Protocol

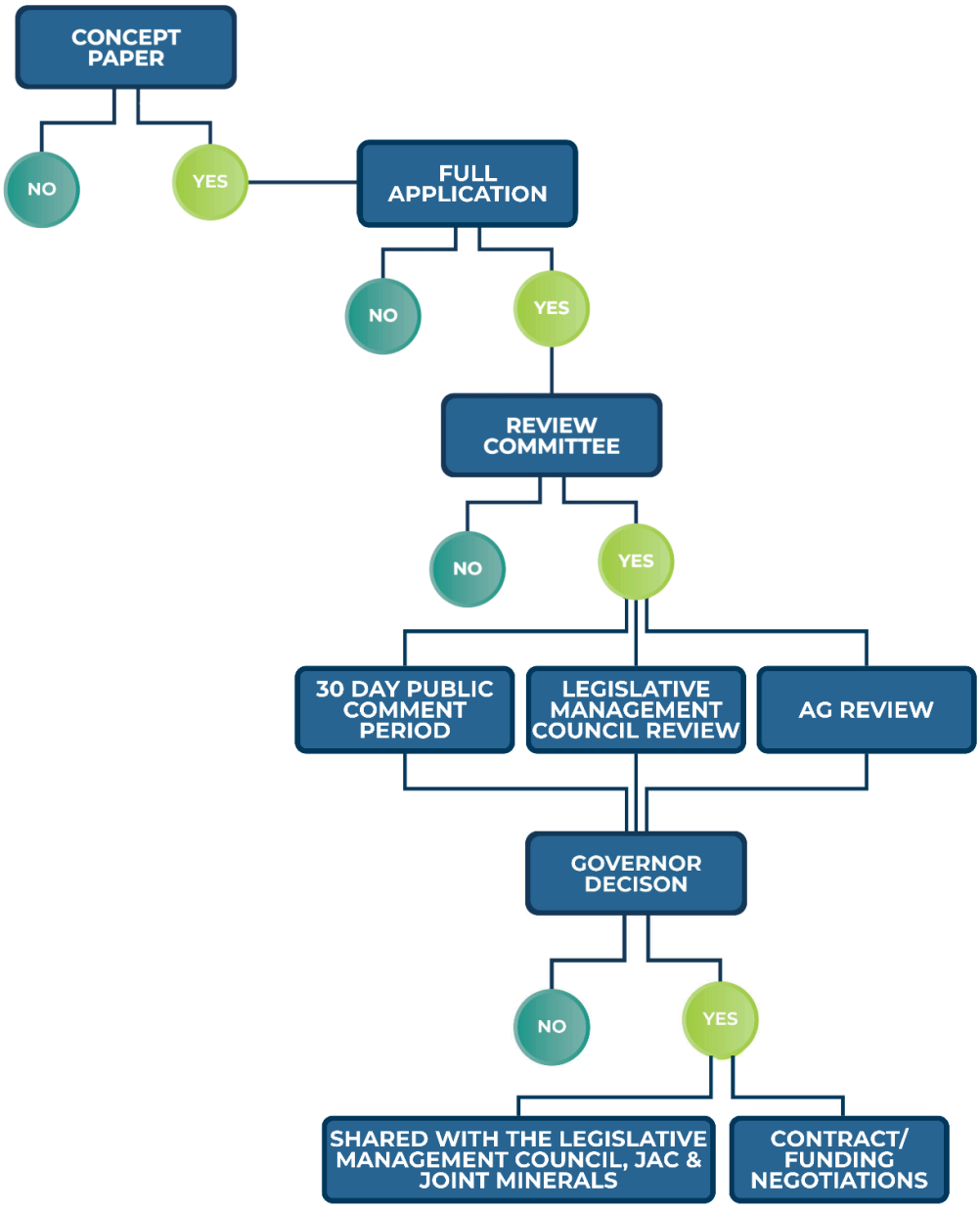

Exhibit. STATUTORY LANGUAGE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2026 SESSION

WYOMING ENERGY DOMINANCE FUND
SENATE ENGROSSED FILE No. 0123 ; Enrolled Act No. 69

AN ACT relating to the administration of the government; creating the Wyoming Energy Dominance Fund; specifying authorized uses and requirements of the fund; authorizing grants and loans from funds within the Wyoming energy dominance fund as specified; requiring reports; providing findings; modifying distribution of severance tax revenues; providing for the deposit of funds into the Wyoming energy dominance fund; making conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date.
Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:
Section 1. W.S. 37-5-503(j) and 39-14-801(b)(v), (vi) and by creating a new paragraph (vii) are amended to read:

37-5-503. Purposes; report.

(j) Before any appropriation is made to the authority, the authority shall submit its budget for review as provided by W.S. 9-2-1010 through 9-2-1014. Except for funds expended from the Wyoming energy dominance fund, any appropriation to the authority shall be expended only for administrative purposes, which shall include planning and research.

39-14-801. Severance tax distributions; distribution account created; formula.

(b) Before making distributions from the severance tax distribution account under subsections (c) through (e) of this section, an amount equal to two-thirds (2/3) of the amount of tax collected under W.S. 39-14-104(a)(i) and (b)(i) and 39-14-204(a)(i) for the same period shall be deposited as follows:

(v) For fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2028 2026 these funds shall be deposited equally to the permanent Wyoming mineral trust fund and to the common school account within the permanent land fund;

(vi) For fiscal year 2029 and thereafter 2027 these funds shall be deposited two-thirds (2/3) to the permanent Wyoming mineral trust fund and one-third (1/3) to the common school account within the permanent land fund to the Wyoming energy dominance fund, not to exceed a total of one hundred five million dollars ($105,000,000.00) deposited into the Wyoming energy dominance fund. Funds exceeding one hundred five million dollars ($105,000,000.00) during fiscal year 2027 shall be deposited one-half (1/2) to the permanent Wyoming mineral trust fund and one-half (1/2) to the common school account within the permanent land fund;

(vii) For fiscal year 2028 and thereafter these funds shall be deposited two-thirds (2/3) to the permanent Wyoming mineral trust fund and one-third (1/3) to the common school account within the permanent land fund.

Section 2.

(a) The legislature finds that:

(i) Wyoming is blessed with an abundance of energy and natural resources that have long powered the state's economy and supported the prosperity of the state's communities;

(ii) Energy is Wyoming's number one (1) industry, contributing up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the state's gross state product over the past decade and generating nearly ninety-five billion dollars ($95,000,000,000.00) in total economic impact since 2015. Wyoming leads the nation in coal production, supplying about forty percent (40%) of the United States total production, and ranks seventh in crude oil production and tenth in natural gas production;

(iii) Wyoming has the world's largest trona deposit, produces two-thirds (2/3) of the United States' bentonite, forty percent (40%) of its uranium and over twenty percent (20%) of the world's helium;

(iv) Wyoming is also a net exporter of electricity and the largest energy exporter in the western interconnection, with the highest net exports per capita;

(v) The mineral and energy industries directly and indirectly support more than sixty thousand (60,000) Wyoming jobs, paying approximately two billion dollars ($2,000,000,000.00) in annual wages, and have generated approximately twenty-eight billion dollars ($28,000,000,000.00) in state and local tax revenue during the last ten (10) years. These revenues fund Wyoming's schools, infrastructure and essential public services through mechanisms like the permanent Wyoming mineral trust fund, now valued at over eleven billion dollars ($11,000,000,000.00);

(vi) It is in Wyoming's and the United States' best interest to unlock the full potential of our affordable and reliable energy resources. Doing so will drive economic opportunity across the state, strengthen the communities that have fueled this nation for generations and reinforce economic and national security, ensuring that Wyoming remains the energy backbone of the United States for decades to come.

Section 3.

(a) There is created the Wyoming energy dominance fund to be administered by the Wyoming energy authority. The fund shall consist of those funds designated to the account by law and all funds received from contributions, grants, gifts, transfers, bequests and donations to the fund. All investment earnings from the Wyoming energy dominance fund shall be credited to the fund.

(b) Funds in the Wyoming energy dominance fund are continuously appropriated to the Wyoming energy authority in order to:

(i) Provide grants for private or federal funding for applied research, demonstration, pilot projects or commercial development projects related to Wyoming energy needs, including coal innovation, coal-fired electricity, trona and bentonite development projects, natural gas, enhanced oil recovery, pipeline infrastructure, energy exports, uranium conversion, uranium enrichment, fuel fabrication, rare earth and critical mineral processing, separation and manufacturing, baseload energy development and deployment and grid innovations. Grants shall not be provided for wind or solar energy projects. For purposes of this paragraph:

(A) Expenditure of funds awarded under this paragraph shall be conditioned upon receipt of matching funds in a ratio of one dollar ($1.00) of funds from the Wyoming energy dominance fund to not less than one dollar ($1.00) of nonstate funds;

(B) Project matching funds shall be secured by the applicant before a grant or award is issued pursuant to this paragraph;

(C) In-kind contributions shall not be eligible as matching funds under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph;

(D) Prior investment or capital spent by the applicant before an application for funds is filed shall not be eligible as matching funds under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

(ii) Provide loans as determined by the Wyoming energy authority, for applied research, demonstration projects, pilot projects and commercial deployment projects related to Wyoming energy needs, including coal innovation, coal-fired electricity, trona and bentonite development projects, natural gas, enhanced oil recovery, pipeline infrastructure, energy exports, uranium conversion, uranium enrichment, fuel fabrication, rare earth and critical mineral processing and manufacturing, baseload energy development and deployment and grid innovation. Loans shall not be provided for wind or solar energy projects. Loans provided under this paragraph shall at a minimum:

(A) Be made only if the applicant demonstrates before receipt of the loan that all forecasted project costs will be funded. The applicant shall identify the source of all funds to be used for the project in a written feasibility level business case provided to the Wyoming energy authority at the time of loan application;

(B) Be adequately collateralized as determined by the Wyoming energy authority;

(C) Credit all repayments of loans under this paragraph to the permanent Wyoming mineral trust fund reserve account;

(D) Ensure that interest rates, if applicable, shall be consistent with the federal funds rate as of the date of the application, provided that any interest rate for loans set shall be the effective federal funds rate as reported by the federal reserve bank of New York minus one percent (1%), but in no case shall the rate be lower than zero percent (0%);

(E) Charge the applicant a loan origination fee or loan guarantee fee of not less than one percent (1%) of the loan amount made from funds from the Wyoming energy dominance fund;

(F) The maximum loan duration of any loan provided under this paragraph shall be not more than ten (10) years;

(G) The Wyoming energy authority may require other terms and conditions on the loans provided as deemed necessary.

(iii) The Wyoming energy authority shall create an application process where the authority accepts applications not less than one (1) time every four (4) months for all grants and loans provided under this subsection. The application process shall include, at a minimum:

(A) A concept paper phase;

(B) A full application phase;

(C) A public comment period;

(D) Attorney general legal review;

(E) Governor review and determination.

(iv) Grant and loan recipients shall report the expenditures and progress of an energy project funded by, in whole or in part, a grant or loan with funds under this subsection to the Wyoming energy authority on a quarterly basis. At the end of the term of the grant or loan, the recipient shall furnish a comprehensive report to the Wyoming energy authority that shall, at a minimum, include a cumulative financial audit conducted at the recipient's expense and a list of the accomplishments achieved as a result of the grant or loan.

(c) The attorney general shall provide an opinion certifying the legality of each grant or loan involving funds disbursed or used from the Wyoming energy dominance fund created by this section and shall share the opinion with the Wyoming energy authority.

(d) As a condition of expending the funds in the Wyoming energy dominance fund:

(i) The Wyoming energy authority shall notify the management council of the legislature, the joint appropriations committee and the joint minerals, business and economic development

interim committee of all proposed expenditures from monies derived from the fund and the purposes and goals of each expenditure not less than thirty (30) days prior to the expenditure being made; and

(ii) The management council of the legislature shall review and make recommendations on the proposed expenditures of funds from the Wyoming energy dominance fund by a majority vote.

(e) This section shall be repealed on December 31, 2028. Any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining in the Wyoming energy dominance fund on December 31, 2028 shall revert to the permanent Wyoming mineral trust fund reserve account.