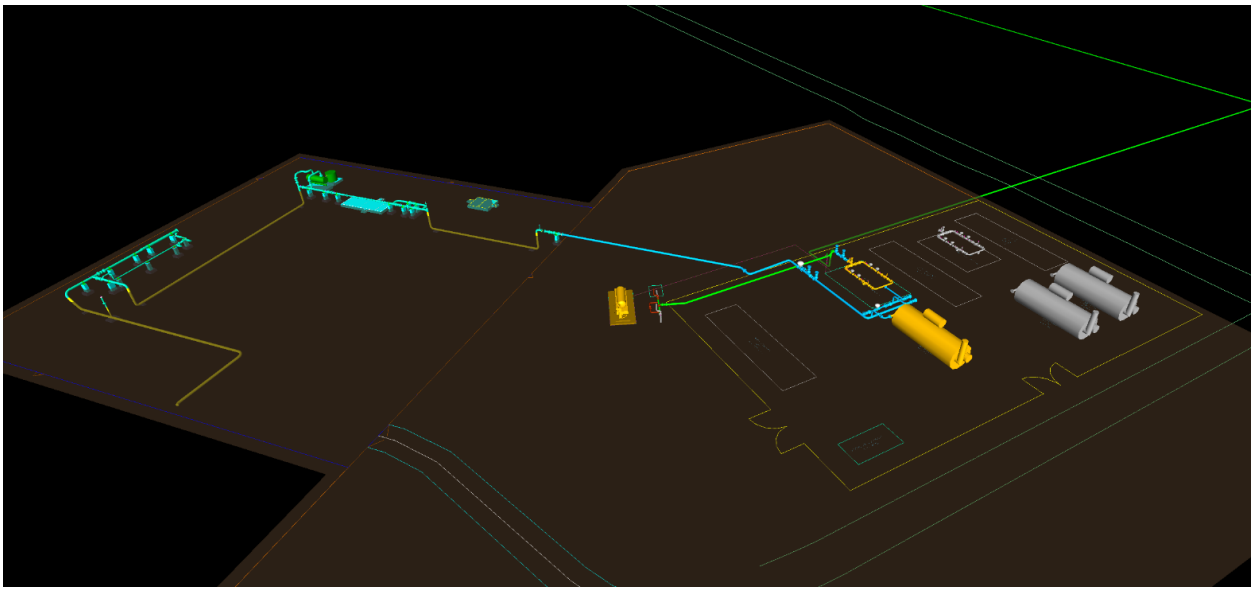
Westvaco Natural Gas Upgrade Project

The Westvaco Natural Gas Upgrade Project will establish the natural gas infrastructure necessary to support continued large-scale soda ash production and future industrial growth at WE Soda Wyoming LP's Westvaco facility in Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The project includes construction of a new high-pressure natural gas supply connection from the Williams MountainWest Overthrust Pipeline system, together with associated gas receiving, pressure regulation, heating, monitoring, and distribution facilities at the Westvaco site. The upgraded system will provide sufficient capacity to support full natural gas operation of existing boilers while also accommodating future production expansion requirements.

As a commercial deployment project, the investment strengthens Wyoming's energy dominance and infrastructure by increasing utilization of Wyoming-produced natural gas and improving energy reliability for one of the state's largest industrial operations. The project will provide up to 64,000 MMBtu/day of natural gas capacity for existing operations by the end of 2027, with infrastructure expected to be upgradable to support future capacity requirements of up to 130,000 MMBtu/day.

The project will help maintain the competitiveness of Wyoming-produced soda ash by providing a cost-effective and reliable thermal energy source for current operations in time to replace the economical local coal which will be depleted by the end 2027. In addition, conversion to natural gas supports emissions reductions and creates a pathway for future facility expansions that could significantly increase soda ash and specialty products production. These expansions are expected to generate additional employment, capital investment, tax revenues, royalties, contractor activity, and economic development in southwest Wyoming.

By supporting both Wyoming's natural gas and trona industries, the requested $12,925,500 grant cost share represents a long-term investment in the state's mining and industrial base, energy competitiveness, energy dominance, and economic growth while enabling continued development of one of Wyoming's most valuable natural resource sectors.