

**PUBLIC ABSTRACT**

Applicant (primary) name: Great River Energy

Applicant's address: Coal Creek Station, 2875 Third St. SW,  
Underwood, ND 58576-9659

Street City State Zipcode

Team Members (if any):

(listing represents only participants  
at time of application, not necessarily  
final team membership)

EPRI, Palo Alto, CA 94304

Name City State Zipcode

Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA 18015-4729  
Name City State Zipcode

Barr Engineering , Minneapolis, MN 55435-4803  
Name City State Zipcode

Falkirk . Underwood, ND 58576  
Name City State Zipcode

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Proposal Title: Lignite Fuel Enhancement  
Commercial Application: X New Facilities X Existing  
Facilities

The commercial application of the fuel enhancement  
technology applies to both new and existing plants

Other, Specify:

Technology Type: High Moisture Coal Enhancement by  
Incrementally Drying

Estimated total cost of project:  
(May not represent final negotiated costs.)

Total Estimated Cost: \$ 22,000,000

Estimated DOE Share: \$ 11,000,000

Estimated Private Share: \$ 11,000,000

**PUBLIC ABSTRACT (contd)**

Anticipated Project Site(s): Coal Creek Station,  
Underwood, ND 58576-9659

Location (city, county, etc.) State Zipcode  
Type of coal to be used: Lignite

Primary Alternate (if any)

Size or scale of project: 11,400 tons/day  
Tons of coal/day input  
And/or

546 MW Megawatts, Barrels per day,  
etc. Other (if necessary)

Duration of proposed project: 45  
(From date of award) (Months)

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**PRIMARY CONTACT:**

For additional information, Mr. Charles  
Bullinger

interested parties should contact: Name  
Position Engineering  
Services Leader

(701) 442-7001  
Telephone Number

Cbullingers@greenergy.com  
e-mail address  
St SW

Company Great River Energy  
Address 2875 Third  
City, State, Zipcode Underwood, ND  
58576-9659

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**Alternative Contact:**

Mr. Mark Ness  
Name  
Position Project Manager

(701) 442-7060  
Telephone Number

mnness@greenergy.com  
e-mail address  
St. SW

Company Great River  
Energy  
Address 2875 Third  
City, State, Zipcode Underwood, ND  
58576-9659

## **PUBLIC ABSTRACT (cont'd)**

### **Public Abstract**

#### **LIGNITE FUEL ENHANCEMENT**

##### ***Project Goal and Objectives***

The goal and objective of this project is to significantly enhance the value of lignite as a fuel in electrical generation power plants within the next 5 years. Although current lignite power plants are designed to burn high-moisture coals (about 40%), a reduction in moisture content of 5 to 15 percentage points (about one quarter of the moisture content in the coal) will result in significant improvements.

All fossil steam plants reject large quantities of heat in the cooling water used to condense steam. Engineering studies at Great River Energy (GRE) Coal Creek Station show that this waste heat could be used to lower the moisture content of the coal by at least 10 percentage points (or one quarter of the moisture in the coal). Reducing the moisture content of the coal will translate into the following benefits for the U.S.:

- Increasing the net generating capacity of units that burn high-moisture coal.
- Increasing the new energy supply of units that burn high-moisture coal.
- Increasing the cost-effectiveness of the nation's electrical generation industry.
- Improving the environment by reducing emissions from coal-fired plants.
- Increasing the value of the nation's lignite reserves.

The cost benefits from improved plant performance, reduced emissions, and increased availability far out weigh the cost of drying the fuel. This work represents a potential landmark advance of fossil-steam plant performance improvement, emissions reduction and plant availability and is also applicable to Powder River Basin sub bituminous and biomass high moisture fuels as well.

##### ***Methodology***

The benefits of reduced-moisture-content lignite will be demonstrated at the GRE Coal Creek Station in Underwood, North Dakota. A phased approach will be used. In the first phase, a full-scale prototype dryer module will be designed, for full power operation of one of the 546 MW units at the Coal Creek Station. Following successful demonstration of

the dryer and the performance improvements as a result of the dryer, GRE will design, construct, and perform full-scale long-term operational testing of a full suite of dryer modules for full operation of the unit on incrementally dried coal.

***Sponsoring Organization***

GRE is the principal project sponsor. Other collaborating organizations include Falkirk Mining and Couteau Properties, EPRI, Lehigh University and Barr Engineering. The point of contact at Great River Energy is Mr. Charles Bullinger (telephone 701-442-7001 and email [cbullinger@GREnergy.com](mailto:cbullinger@GREnergy.com)).