

MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS

LEVEL II REQUEST FORM

Item No.:	136-2002-R0907	Date of Meeting:	September 19-21, 2007
Institution:	Montana State University-Bozeman		
Program Title:	The Energy Research Institute		

Level II proposals require approval by the Board of Regents.

Level II action requested (check all that apply): Level II proposals entail substantive additions to, alterations in, or termination of programs, structures, or administrative or academic entities typically characterized by the (a) addition, reassignment, or elimination of personnel, facilities, or courses of instruction; (b) rearrangement of budgets, cost centers, funding sources; and (c) changes which by implication could impact other campuses within the Montana University System and community colleges. Board policy 303.1 indicates the curricular proposals in this category:

- 1. Change names of degrees (e.g. from B.A. to B.F.A.)
- 2. Implement a new minor or certificate where there is no major or no option in a major;
- 3. Establish new degrees and add majors to existing degrees;
- 4. Expand/extend approved mission; and
- 5. Any other changes in governance and organization as described in Board of Regents' Policy 218, such as formation, elimination or consolidation of a college, division, school, department, institute, bureau, center, station, laboratory, or similar unit.

Specify Request:

The Energy Research Institute will be the umbrella institute for an array of energy research and education programs at Montana State University. Over the past several years, Montana State University has developed numerous programs focused on energy research, education, and development, and is now playing a significant role in international and national energy research and development.

Because of MSU's involvement in programs like the Collaborative Research Center (CO₂CRC) and the Solid-state Energy Conversion Alliance (SECA), we have access to a powerful network of national and international scientists and engineers from other universities, DoE national laboratories and the private sector.

At the present time, these programs are operating fairly independently. Although MSU has been very successful in building viable, productive, and well funded energy programs, we feel that organizing these programs under the umbrella of the MSU Energy Research Institute will result in a cohesive unit with even greater productivity, enhanced national and international recognition, and increased funding opportunities. The result will be an MSU Energy Research Institute with significantly improved capacity to address the state's and the nation's energy needs leading to enhanced economic development for Montana.