

November 20-21, 2014

**INFORMATION ITEM:**

**Energy Conservation Projects, Chemistry Biology Building and Engineering Laboratory Classroom Building; Montana Tech of the University of Montana**

Montana Tech of the University of Montana is interested in entering into an Energy Performance Contract to implement energy saving modifications to facility systems and components in the Chemistry Biology Building (CBB), and the Engineering Laboratory Classroom Building (ELC). Montana Tech has selected McKinstry Energy & Facility Solutions of Missoula MT, to perform initial energy studies and analysis of possible energy saving solutions in these two building. McKinstry was selected from a pre-qualified list of Energy Performance Contractors (EPC) as published by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

The EPC will use initial information collected by preliminary energy and building use audits for analysis to determine if a self-funded construction project is possible. The project could include new components or systems with more efficient capacity, new operational strategies, and replacement of deferred maintenance items that are big energy wasters. The self-funded concept is a requirement that specifies utility cost reduction will pay for the construction cost over a pre-determined project lifespan.

Based on positive preliminary analysis, the EPC will perform an investment grade energy audit that identifies specific work that would qualify as self-funded items. A proposed contract for scope, schedule, and price for one or both buildings will be submitted to DEQ for review and approval and presented to the BOR for approval, along with the financing strategy plan.

Preliminary work to date suggests construction activity in both buildings could be \$1 million plus each, with a self-funded finance package of less than a 15 year payback.

The State of Montana Architectural and Engineering Division (A&E) has been frequently consulted about this possible work. A&E has had several projects in recent years for retro-commissioning studies of these two buildings based on high potential energy savings and efficiency improvements, and a current major capital project; the \$10 million addition to ELC. Their insight and expertise has been invaluable to Montana Tech for successful coordination of this project.