

Grant Round Application for G-023-A

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS G—023-A

“Investigation of Improved Conductivity and Proppant Applications in the Bakken”

Submitted by: Energy & Environmental Research Center
Request for \$150,000; Total Project Costs \$332,432

Description of the Project:

The goal of the project is to improve the lateral and vertical drainage of hydrocarbons from the Three Forks and Bakken Formations by identifying the factors that lead to the collapse of propped fractures. Laboratory testing is proposed to determine whether more durable fracture conductivity can be achieved in the Bakken by altering the fracturing fluids, proppant types, and proppant concentrations.

Technical Reviewers' Comments

Reviewer 23A-01

The project supports the statutory goals & purposes. Specifically, the project can “positively impact ultimate recovery from North Dakota’s existing oil and gas pools” and “develop baseline information that will lead to other projects, processes, ideas, and activities.

Recommendation: Fund

Reviewer 23A-02

Depending on the findings. If it is possible to improve the communication between formations with a change in fluid, proppant, or design then it would have a significant affect on the number of wells required to produce both formations

Recommendation: Fund

Reviewer 23A-03

I believe the goals are very clearly stated. This subject is of concern to many of the Producing Companies in the Williston Basin and industry is looking at many different factors that may contribute to the lack of conductivity between the Three Forks and Bakken Formations. This project would address one of those factors.

Recommendation: Fund

Director's Recommendations:

Recommendation: To fund in the amount \$150,000