

NEW AND DEVELOPING INDUSTRIES

In the true spirit of frontier exploration and innovation that encapsulates the state's all-of-the-above energy strategy, Wyoming is a leader in new and developing energy industries. Building off our heritage resources, Wyoming is leveraging the state's high IQ in energy to develop technologies that will enhance America's energy security in the 21st Century.

PUMPED HYDRO

Seminole Pumped Storage: The Seminole Pumped Storage Project is a 900-megawatt pumped hydro energy storage project being developed in Carbon County, Wyoming. This type of system shifts water between an upper reservoir and a lower reservoir to store energy and generate power when needed. In this case, the lower reservoir will be the existing Seminole Reservoir. The project will bring substantial economic benefits to the local community and will serve as an important element of Wyoming's modernized and reliable energy infrastructure.

SOLAR

Wyoming saw its first utility solar project built in 2019, with additional interest in commercial solar projects around the state. Currently, there is approximately 650 MW of solar capacity under development and 146 MW of total installed capacity. In the 2020 Wyoming State Legislative session, Senate File 0036 – Large-scale solar and wind energy facilities – placed the permitting of commercial-scale solar projects (more than .5 MW of power) under Wyoming's Industrial Siting Council.



INDUSTRIAL, CRITICAL AND RARE EARTH MINERALS

Wyoming mines the most uranium in the United States, producing approximately 173 thousand pounds in 2019 and employing 125 people. Wyoming's known reserves are estimated at 350 million pounds.

Wyoming is blessed with an abundance of industrial minerals and rare earth elements (REEs) and is the number one producer of both trona and bentonite. These industrial minerals are found in everyday items such as kitty litter and plastics, are critical elements in the production of wind turbines and solar panels, and are currently being researched for further use and as part of the increased interest in coal-to-products development.

Wyoming hosts significant deposits of REEs and other critical minerals. Our coal reserves have a variety of rare earth elements. Economic mineral commodities such as gold and copper and strategic mineral commodities such as uranium and helium are also found in Wyoming. When coupled with historical data and a proven mineral extraction history, Wyoming is uniquely positioned to become a national leader in developing domestic critical mineral production.

POSITIONING WYOMING FOR GROWTH

HB61

HB61 passed during the 2023 Legislative Session. This act authorizes the Governor to negotiate on behalf of the state of Wyoming with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the state to assume primary regulatory authority over source material byproduct (generally, uranium or thorium) recovered from any mineral resources, like rare earth elements, that occurs from mining in the state.

BEAR LODGE PROJECT

Rare Element Resources is positioning the Bear Lodge Project in northeastern Wyoming to be the next North American source of rare earth elements. With its premier location and expected +40-year life, the project has the opportunity to produce many of the critical rare earths necessary to support today's evolving technologies.

HALLECK CREEK RARE EARTHS PROJECT

American Rare Earths is a rare earths exploration project located in the central Laramie Mountain range of southeastern Wyoming. With a globally significant exploration of target of over one billion tonnes of mineralized rare earth rocks, the 100% owned Halleck Creek project has the potential to be among the largest rare earths deposits in the United States.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wendy Lopez
wendy.lopez@wyo.gov
307.777.2806

Chance Price
chance.price@wyo.gov
307.286.2550