

The Leader Post (Regina, SK)				Order/Commande
				141196
Date 18.03.2009	Circ. 48996	Page D1	1 / 1	

Deal inked for nuclear centre

Leader-Post staff

The provincial government has signed an agreement with the leading nuclear research laboratory in the U.S. that could lead to the development of a nuclear research 'centre of excellence' at the University of Saskatchewan and other value-added opportunities.

Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd and Enterprise and Innovation Minister Lyle Stewart signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) Tuesday with Bill Rogers, associate laboratory director at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL).

INL, located in Idaho Falls, Idaho, is considered that country's top national laboratory for nuclear energy research.

The MOU allows the province and INL to collaborate on research and demonstration projects on a variety of energy sources, including uranium, nuclear energy, heavy oil, oil shale and oilsands. The agreement also provides for potential collaboration on carbon dioxide capture and storage (CCS) projects.

"We are the world's largest producer of uranium," Boyd said, prior to the signing ceremony at Government House.

As the province moves into "other areas of value-added energy development, it just makes good sense to form partnerships with energy research leaders, like INL, and benefit from their expertise and analysis," Boyd said.

Stewart said the report of the Uranium Development Partnership (UDP) is expected by the end of the month and will make recommendations on opportunities for value-added development of the uranium industry.

"Our government is committed to adding value to our uranium resources," Stewart said, adding "what better partner than INL" to help research and develop these opportunities.

Rogers said the MOU with Saskatchewan was "very important to Idaho National Laboratory because it expands our collaborative relationships on western

regional energy interests and concerns."

INL has worked with the Alberta Research Council on energy and environmental research work for years, Rogers said.

"Saskatchewan is an internationally recognized leader in carbon dioxide capture and storage," Rogers said, adding INL would like to learn from Saskatchewan's expertise in CCS technology.

INL's research interests also include hybrid energy systems that can combine nuclear, fossil and renewable energy sources, including biomass, wind, hydro and geothermal. INL also has extensive environmental research capabilities and conducts cutting-edge testing of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Established in 1949, INL has 3,800 staff in a number of complexes and testing facilities in southeastern Idaho. It is operated for the U.S. Department of Energy by Battelle Energy Alliance, a consortium of research institutes and universities.

