The mission of EORI is to facilitate a meaningful and measurable increase in recoverable reserves and production of oil and natural gas in Wyoming that may otherwise not be realized. Key to this is the effective and efficient transfer of relevant technology, information and knowledge to Wyoming producers. EORI believes that its mission is being met when producers consider EORI as a vital source of relevant technology, information, expertise and knowledge for Wyoming fields.

The Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI) was created and is financially supported by the Wyoming State Legislature to work with Wyoming oil producers to increase oil production, and as result, increase tax revenues of the state. The governor appoints and the legislature confirms eight commissioners who serve on an EOR Commission to oversee EORI’s financial and strategic planning. EORI is part of the School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming. The University provides offices and laboratory facilities in which EORI works. A Technical Advisory Board (TAB), comprised of leading experts from universities and energy companies in the United States, provides technical oversight of EORI work.

EORI works to help the State of Wyoming and its energy producers to recover a large resource of stranded oil in depleted oil reservoirs as rapidly, responsibly, and economically as possible. EORI is the only institution devoted to enhanced oil recovery in Wyoming oil fields.

In developing the most complete Wyoming EOR-specific dataset that exists, EORI has estimated that additional recovery of oil from the state’s depleted oil fields using advanced EOR technology could total more than 1 billion barrels of additional production over the next 20 years. In 2009 approximately 51.3 million barrels of oil were produced in Wyoming. About 12 percent, or 6 million barrels, of that oil was produced from EOR projects.

EORI is dedicated to delivering relevant, topical solutions to producers in Wyoming so that benefits can be realized in a reasonable period of time. The institute is primarily focused on application of new technology through field demonstrations, and supports additional development work as necessary to support commercial-scale implementation. As part of this commitment, the institute has adopted a culture consistent with that of that state’s oil producers – EORI’s priorities and values align with the oil industry’s priorities and values, they talk industry language, and their projects meet industry standards.

In addition to industry cooperation and project co-funding, EORI works closely with the other University of Wyoming centers of excellence – particularly the Carbon Management Institute and the Center for Fundamentals of Subsurface Flow – as well as similar institutions in Houston, Palo Alto, Lawrence, Austin and Golden.