

REX Carbon grant application moving forward

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REX Carbon is one step closer to building an activated carbon production facility in Campbell County.

Last week, the Dayton, Ohio-based company got the permit it was waiting for, allowing Energy Capital Economic Development to move forward with a grant application.

In April, the county entered into an agreement with REX Carbon that would allow the company to buy 50 acres east of Cam-plex for the proposed plant. Documents were signed and hurdles cleared, but there was one thing keeping Energy Capital from applying for the grant — an air quality permit.

Phil Christopherson, CEO of Energy Capital, said REX Carbon did not want to sign the contingency and development agreement, which laid out the responsibilities of the county and REX Carbon, until it knew it would get the air quality permit that it had applied for.

Last week, the company learned it would receive the air quality permit in mid-November, so it signed the document.

Christopherson said he got the news during the State Loan and Investment Board meeting last week where the board decided to give Atlas Carbon a \$15 million loan. It was the icing on an already delicious cake for local economic development.

“I got this email with this document attached, and it was what we were waiting for! Oh my goodness, what a great day,” he said.

Christopherson said he has a good feeling about the Wyoming Business Council grant, which is for about \$3 million and would pay for the infrastructure of the facility, which will be in the Pronghorn Industrial Park.

“This grant is pretty important, but it’s also a top priority,” he said. “This is what is called a business committed grant, and those are top priority, so it will be considered before all other grant applications.”

The project still is far from complete, though.

“We’re still about 65, 70 percent of the way there,” Christopherson said. “Up until now, there was about a 50 percent chance. So I’m pretty positive and optimistic about that.”

Christopherson said the Wyoming Business Council will look at the application in December, and SLIB will review it in January.

“We could have the money for the project as early as March or April,” he said.

The grant requires that there be a public hearing, which will happen a Tuesday county commission meeting at 10 a.m. After that, Christopherson said he will move ahead with the grant application.