

September 19-21, 2007

ITEM 136-2705-R0907

Approval to Add a New Associate of Applied Science Degree in Power Plant Technology; Montana State University Billings, College of Technology

THAT:

In accordance with the Montana University System Policy, the Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes Montana State University Billings, College of Technology approval to create an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Power Plant Technology.

EXPLANATION:

Montana has several power generating facilities but no specific post-secondary training programs in Power Plant Technology. Thousands of people are employed nationwide in this occupation, but there are a limited number of training programs available nationally. Most training is provided on-site by the employer.

The College of Technology intends to provide a public and cost-effective service to the power generation industry by offering two-year education and training at the College of Technology. This program was first considered at the request of PPL Montana, since power plants must hire trained professionals from out-of-state or provide their own costly and time-consuming training. Due to the large number of power plants and related industries nationwide and the small number of educational program providers outside of the industry, this program will serve, at a minimum, the entry-level employment needs of Billings, the region and the state.