

# Rocky Mountain AIChE News

May 2015

Volume 24 Number 8

## May Section Meeting: Presentation and Tour of National Renewable Energy Laboratory National Bioenergy Center

The National Bioenergy Center (NBC) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is focused on developing biomass to fuel technologies. The Thermochemical Process Development Unit (TCPDU) is a 0.5 ton per day pilot plant, which is used to demonstrate different thermochemical conversion technologies developed at the bench scale. The thermochemical platform uses heat and catalysts to convert biomass, such as wood, corn stover, and switch grass, into valuable fuels and chemicals. There are multiple conversion pathways being explored, including gasification, fast pyrolysis, and ex-situ pyrolysis.



Esther Wilcox is a principle investigator and manager at the National Renewable Energy Lab researching pilot-scale thermochemical conversion of cellulosic biomass to liquid fuels. She has over 10 years of experience in alternative energy research with a strong background in catalysis and kinetics. Esther obtained her B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Tulsa and M.S. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering from North Carolina State University.

## May Section Meeting

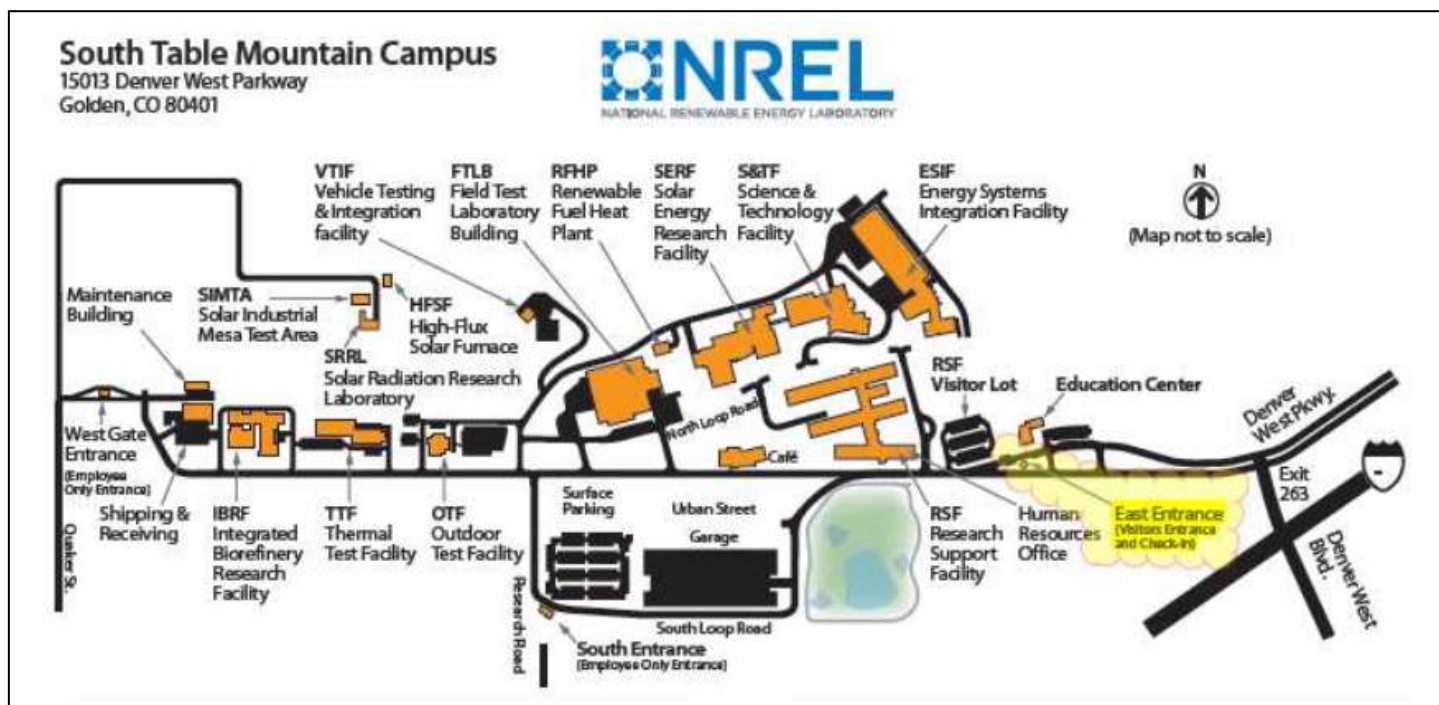
- Topic:** Presentation /Tour of National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) National Bioenergy Center (NBC)
- Speaker:** Dr. Esther Wilcox, Principal Investigator and Manager
- Date:** Tuesday, May 19
- Time:** **5:30** Check-in and Dinner  
The presentation and tour will immediately follow dinner.
- Location:** NREL, [15013 Denver West Parkway](#), Golden. The security gate attendant can direct you to the NBC Building. Please allow ample time to get to the building.
- Cost:** Members: \$20  
(w/RSVP)\* Non-Members: \$25  
Unemployed/Students: \$10
- Menu:** Sandwiches, chips, soft drinks, and cookies. If you have special dietary needs, please communicate those to AIChE when you RSVP.

**RSVP REQUIRED by Wednesday, May 6 at [rockyaiche@yahoo.com](mailto:rockyaiche@yahoo.com)** indicating your name, phone number, number of attendees and pay at the meeting. Or you may RSVP and pay online using [PayPal on our meeting link.](#) **ATTENDANCE LIMITED TO 40 PEOPLE.**

\*Add \$5 for attending meeting without RSVP

## Important Requirements for Attending Tour

- You are required to bring government-issued identification (e.g., driver's license or passport).
- Tour participants must wear pants (covering their legs) and sturdy closed-toed shoes. No skirts. No high-heels.
- RSVPs to AIChE (either via PayPal or via email to rockyaiche@yahoo.com) are required by **May 6**.
- Non-U.S. citizens **MUST** also complete Sections 1-18 of the "[FNDC](#)" form and submit the form to [Sheila.grady-mcbride@nrel.gov](mailto:Sheila.grady-mcbride@nrel.gov) by May 6 (in addition to RSVPing to AIChE).



Send your email address to [mmoes@ekiconsult.com](mailto:mmoes@ekiconsult.com) to receive this newsletter electronically!

## AIChE Meetings

### 2015

- Apr 26-30 2015 Spring Meeting and 11th Global Congress on Process Safety Austin, TN
- May 13 Spring 2015 Virtual Career Fair Register Online
- May 19-21 CCPS Middle East Process Safety Conference Abu Dhabi, UAE
- May 26-29 ICOSSE 2015 Balatonfüred, Hungary Anna Grand Hotel
- June 2-4 Process Development Symposium Houston, TX

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Rocky Mountain AIChE News is published eight times a year by the Rocky Mountain section of AIChE. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of AIChE nor the officers of this section.

The objectives of AIChE are to advance chemical engineering in theory and practice, to maintain a high professional standard among its members, and to serve society, particularly where chemical, engineering can contribute to the public interest.

AIChE Rocky Mountain is a public non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations and thus any and all donations are tax deductible.

### **Rocky Mountain AIChE News Publication Schedule**

September 2015 issue  
Articles due Wednesday, Sept 9  
Publish on Friday, Sept 11  
Meeting on Tuesday, Sept 22

### **MEETING SCHEDULE**

*The Rocky Mountain District of AIChE generally meets the third Tuesday of every month, September through November and January through May.*