
MEMORANDUM

TO: PROFESSOR VERGARA
FROM: JOSEPH HOLLINGSWORTH
SUBJECT: SERC GUEST SPEAKING
DATE: NOVEMBER 13 2020

Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to review and reflect on the zoom meeting with guest speakers from the Schatz Energy Research Center. This meeting was about an hour to an hour and a half and it took place on November 6, 2020

Discussion:

This meeting was intended to give new freshman students who are majoring in engineering or interested in the environment and renewable energy. The meeting typically is an in-person event in which students go to the Schatz Energy Research Center and get to see a real research facility, however due to the spread of the Corona virus this year we met on a zoom call with some key speakers.

The most interesting project that Schatz Energy Research Center is working on right now to me is the Blue Lake Rancheria microgrid. Blue Lake Rancheria is near Humboldt Bay California. This project integrates a solar panel grid, a 950kWh battery, a PCC protective relay, and a diesel backup generator. This all sounds very complicated but essentially this is all going to be a system that powers the Blue Lake Rancheria without using much energy from fossil fuel combustion. Because the Blue Lake Rancheria is in a location that is highly affected by power outages due to rainstorms, fires, and earthquakes, this microgrid is a very beneficial feature to build to provide electricity.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the meeting was a very interesting discussion in which students who are interested in the application of renewable energy were able to hear from experts and understand local opportunities in their field.