

Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

10:00AM-12:00PM

Meadowdale Library

Chesterfield County Public Library
4301 Meadowdale Blvd.
North Chesterfield, VA 23234

Draft Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Introduction:

The Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom DePonty at 10:07 A.M.

The following VNECA Board Members were present: Tom DePonty, Scott Kopple, Tim Stuller, Jeff Fox, Gene Grecheck, John Capps, Larry Corkey (on behalf of John Warren), Bill Briscoe, Randy Heflin, and Michael Jaegels (counsel).

The following VNECA Board Members had conflicts and were unable to attend: Dan Stoddard, Michael Lempke, Andrew Hutton, Ken Ball, Garry Tepper, and Rich Diddams.

The following Virginia Energy staff were present: Nam Nguyen and Devyn Keller.

The following guests were present virtually: April Wade (VNEC), David Essah (SCC), Arlen Bolstad (SCC), Chrissy Noonan, Barre Gibson, Igor Musatov, Arvind Patel, Christine Csizmadia and Dr. Ganapati Myneni

Chair DePonty welcomed the board and provided a summer safety message on water and boating safety.

Guest Speaker – Dr. Ganapati Myneni, Director VT-India Nuclear Energy Partnership:

Briefed the board on his work with the Virginia Advanced ²³³U-²³²Th Breeder Burner Subcritical Micro Reactors (ASMR) & Radio Isotope Development Center

Guest Speaker – Christine Csizmadia, Senior Director, State Government Affairs and Advocacy, Nuclear Energy Institute

- Provided a brief overview of NEI –
 - Nuclear Energy Institute is a trade association representing the nuclear industry and helps develop policy affecting nuclear technologies industry.
- Provided a rundown of advanced nuclear activity in other states
 - States that have policies to support advanced nuclear legislation
 - States that have policies to support advanced nuclear under consideration
 - States with planned projects
 - States with projects under construction
- Provide a snapshot of 2022 Innovation States - bills around new nuclear development that explore projects such as
 - Repealed moratoriums
 - SMR project enabling

- Micro-reactor project enabling
- SMR studies
- SMR Task Force
- 2022 innovation States with new nuclear technology include with important work around stakeholder engagement to ensure public is informed because projects being deployed: Idaho (INL carbon free power project), Washington & Wyoming (demonstration projects), and Tennessee (TVA new nuclear program)
- 2022 Other State Policies Impacting Nuclear
 - Climate proposals, decarbonization plan, RGGI, etc.
- NEI and national organizations that support state partners

VNECA Chair DePonty inquired on the top 3 things motivating states to act on developing new nuclear policy:

- Differs among states –
 - trends around environmental concerns and decarbonization modeling
 - grid stability
 - SMR's
 - tax incentives
 - repealing moratoriums on nuclear power plants

Virginia Energy Plan (VEP) Update – Nam Nguyen, Associate Director, Virginia Energy:

Working with the Governor's cabinet (Secretary of Commerce and Trade and supporting secretaries) on their input and feedback on the Virginia Energy Plan. The administration recognizes the state has competitive electric energy rates for business and industry. Administration feels strongly that the energy policy going forward needs to be diversified due to volatility as well as security and resiliency. That diversity would include nuclear energy as well as natural gas energy sources. The administration wants an energy policy that enables informed energy policy decisions based on data and metrics. With that, our agency has procured expert technical services from consultants to aid in empirical analysis on developing models and sensitivity analysis of existing energy policy as well as new energy policy going forward. Plan due October 1, but plan expected to be a living document that will continue to build upon and evolve throughout this and future administrations.

Member inquiries included:

- 1- Whether the plan would build upon work that has already been done such as the Virginia Nuclear Strategic Plan?
 - a. Virginia Energy serves as the lead agency for the plan as well as for this board. We will remain engaged
- 2- How do you sustain the policy that is decided upon in the plan?
 - a. Consistency grounded in modeling and data metric driven decision making in place so that we can inform this and future administrations
- 3- Are there specific input points that the board should provide commentary? What is the formal process for allowing public comment?
 - a. Similar intention as previous but less in-person meetings but more of a virtual presence to ensure further outreach.
- 4- Will workforce needs be explored as well?
 - a. Yes, workforce is important to the VEP

Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium (VNEC) Update – April Wade, Executive Director

VNECA directed through legislation ([HB 894](#)) to develop a working group to discuss advance nuclear technologies and voted to empower VNEC to serve as lead in bringing together participants from across the nuclear industry to develop objectives and recommendations to promote and develop advanced nuclear technologies in the Commonwealth. The first meeting of this working group to meet in July. Speakers at the working group include Representative Kilgore, Dr. Katy Huff, Assistant Secretary, Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy, and Christine Csizmadia, Senior Director, State Government Affairs and Advocacy, Nuclear Energy Institute. An update from this meeting will be provided at the Authorities next meeting.

On the Innovation Hub work, we are near final just working to finalize a few partners. Hampton University has agreed to collaborate with the Hub, which is a big success, and we are finalizing a few more. Once those are finalized, the document will be circulated by Virginia Energy to members for their final review and feedback.

Approval of March 29 Meeting Minutes:

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from the March 29, 2022 VNECA Board meeting. The board recommended correcting the confirmation news on Dr. Katy Huff, Assistant Secretary, The Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy. Bill Briscoe motioned approval of minutes upon correcting, seconded by John Capps.

Nuclear News and Company Reports:

Chair DePonty appropriations process at the federal level has begun. Office of Nuclear Energy will see substantial funding. Still issues around fuel but continuing interest in how to resolve fuel cycle issues.

[U.S. Department of Defense Strategic Capabilities Office Selects BWXT to Manufacture and Deliver Project Pele Prototype Reactor to Idaho National Laboratory in 2024.](#)

Public Comments:

The Board heard public comment from Erica Gray, Sierra Club.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:39AM.