

# Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, November 29, 2018 | 10:00 AM  
VCU East Engineering Hall | Room E3218 | Richmond, VA

## Final Meeting Minutes

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom DePonty at 10:00 A.M. EDT.

The following VNECA Board Members were present: Chairman Tom DePonty, Bob Bailey, Bill Briscoe, John Capps, Gene Grecheck, Andrew Hutton, Woody Lawman, Michael Lempke, Will Payne, Tim Stuller, and Gary Tepper.

The following VNECA Board Members were present by phone: Jack Lesko.

The following VNECA Board Members were absent: Ken Ball, Regina Carter, David Christian, Collen Deegan, Rich Diddams, and Pam Norris.

The following VNECA staff was present: Al Christopher

The following non-members were present: April Wade (VNEC), Erica Gray (Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter) and David Martin (Martin Images News).

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

After Chairman Tom DePonty's welcoming remarks, Authority board members provided introductions.

### **VIRGINIA NUCLEAR ENERGY CONSORTIUM (VNEC) UPDATE:**

VNEC Executive Director April Wade expressed disappointment on behalf of the organization that several of its recommendations were not included in the 2018 Virginia Energy Plan (VEP). Ms. Wade is working on arranging a meeting with VNEC members and Governor Northam. In addition, Chairman DePonty and VNEC Chair Dr. Alireza Haghighat are working on an Op-Ed regarding the importance to the Commonwealth of nuclear energy as a major source of zero-carbon generation.

VNEC is partnering with the Virginia Energy Workforce Consortium to support legislation during the 2019 General Assembly session creating the 17th Energy Career Cluster in Virginia. This cluster is focused on the industry's critical and most in demand careers – engineers, line work / construction, operators, technicians and welders – ensuring common core curriculum and leveraging existing curriculum from like career clusters.

VNEC members recently met with Tre Akins, Business Investment Manager, Technologies and Services for the Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

Ms. Wade will be reaching out to the Rita Baranwal, the nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Energy (nuclear energy) at the Department of Energy.

The annual American Nuclear Society is planning its 'Day on the Hill' when Congress is back in session.

### **VIRGINIA NUCLEAR ENERGY CONSORTIUM ANNUAL REPORT:**

Members made several edits to the draft annual report that are reflected in the final version.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Members discussed the desire to engage better with the Northam Administration's climate change policies and actions. In addition, members suggested an invitation to speak at a future VNECA meeting be extended to Ann Phillips, Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection.

Members also requested that DMME staff include the Virginia Nuclear Energy Asset Inventory as a regular agenda item for future VNECA meetings in order to ensure the document remains updated.

### **MEMBER UPDATES:**

Bob Bailey indicated that BWX Technologies, Inc. is negotiating the transfer of IST facility which is currently used for cyber security work, to Liberty University as part of its Center for Cyber Excellence.

John Capps announced that Central Virginia Community College (CVCC) was awarded a \$150,000 Trade School and Community College Scholarship Grant by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The primary objective of this NRC grant is to support scholarships for CVCC students who are studying machining, welding and nuclear technology, and are interested in obtaining a job in nuclear related industries.

Gene Greheck announced that Virginia Commonwealth University is hosting the 2019 American Nuclear Society Student Conference from April 4-6. VNEC is working on hosting an event with a group of 450 student attendees.

Chairman DePonty offered several updates, including:

- The Department of Energy has recently announced various funding opportunities.
- Framatone signed an extension on work with the Department of Energy Accident Tolerant Fuel program in Lynchburg, VA and Washington State.
- The Pennsylvania Nuclear Energy Caucus will be releasing a report on the impact of Pennsylvania's nuclear energy industry on the state's communities, economy and

environment. The report is likely to propose several options that could be considered by lawmakers to prevent the premature closure of Pennsylvania's nuclear fleet, including Three Mile Island.

- Newly elected Ohio Governor Mike DeWine recently indicated his support for the nuclear power industry and recognized the importance of the state's nuclear plants.
- A bipartisan group of U.S. Senators introduced legislation to boost nuclear energy innovation and ensure advanced reactors can provide clean, safe, affordable, and reliable power to meet national and global energy needs. S. 3422, the Nuclear Energy Leadership Act, will help reestablish U.S. leadership in nuclear energy by launching robust public-private partnerships between the federal government, leading research institutions, and the best industry innovators. The bill also promotes education initiatives, workforce development, and training in nuclear science.

Bill Briscoe reported that George Washington University is developing a program with Virginia Tech to bring over cohorts and provide training by the State Department via the Department of Energy.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The Authority heard from Erica Gray representing the Sierra Club.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

As all business was conducted for the day, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m. EST.