

# Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 | 10:00 AM

VCU East Engineering Hall | Room E3218 | Richmond, VA

## Meeting Minutes

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom DePonty at 10:08 A.M. EDT.

The following VNECA Board Members were present: Chairman Tom DePonty, Vice Chairman Gary Tepper, Sean Agnew, John Capps, David Christian, Treasurer Gene Grecheck, Andrew Hutton, Scott Kopple, Woody Lawman, Michael Lempke, Tim Stuller, and Jordan Burns (DMME)

The following VNECA Board Members were present by phone: Larry Corkey (DMME), Colleen Deegan, and Jack Lesko

The following non-members were present: Grant E. Kronenberg, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, April Wade (VNEC), Brandi Frazier Bestpitch (DMME), Randy Pearson and Elizabeth Parker (Two Capitols Consulting), Erica Gray (Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter) and David Martin (Martin Images News).

The following VNECA Board members were absent: Ken Ball, Bill Briscoe, and Rich Diddams.

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

After Chairman Tom DePonty's welcoming remarks and safety message on COVID-19 encouraging members to visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for up to date information.

### **VIRGINIA NUCLEAR ENERGY CONSORTIUM November 12, 2019 Draft Meeting Minutes:**

After brief review, Gene Grecheck requested a motion to approve the November 12, 2019 meeting minutes. Andrew Hutton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE**

Tom DePonty, VNECA Chairman, provided an update on activities on the federal level:

- Federal Legislation in response to the FY2020 budget
  - New programs in the nuclear energy space
  - Senate consider broad energy package that includes legislation for advanced nuclear. Legislation includes many elements that were included in the Nuclear Energy Leadership Act (NELA) which help establish into law the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Project

- House Science and Technology Committee fielding comments on Advanced Nuclear Energy R & D Bill which includes elements of NELA, Reactor Demonstration Program, etc.
- House Energy and Commerce Committee working on elements of NELA –
  - passed bill that deals with HALEU
  - looking at PPA elements included in clean energy principles advancing
  - hearing on advanced nuclear and its role in combating climate change and 100% carbon free system and discussion on elements of NELA
- FY2021 Budget discussions
  - Appropriations hearing underway on funding of nuclear bills
- DOE Funding Instructions - Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program
  - authorized by the FY2020 Congressional appropriations to initiate an advanced reactor demonstration program to demonstrate multiple advanced reactor designs
  - demonstration awards would be granted to two teams seeking to develop advanced reactors
  - RFI/NOI issued early February
  - RFP to be rolled out in the next few weeks

#### **VNEC UPDATE**

- April Wade – Executive Director, VNEC
  - Recap 2019 Activities
  - General Assembly 2020 State Legislation Status
    - SJ 60 Nuclear energy; advancement of nuclear energy research & exploration of economic opportunities.
    - HB 1303 Nuclear energy; strategic plan
    - SB 549 Nuclear energy; strategic plan
    - SB 817 Nuclear energy; considered a clean energy source.
    - SB 828 Carbon-free energy and clean energy; definition.

#### **NUCLEAR ENERGY STRATEGIC:**

- April and Tom discussed plan of action for drafting Nuclear Energy Strategic Plan
  - Plan should include
    - Promotion of new technologies and opportunities for innovation; including advanced manufacturing;
    - Establishment of a collaborative research center and university leadership program to promote education in fields that meet the workforce demands of Virginia’s nuclear industry;
    - Recognition of the role of nuclear energy in the Commonwealth’s goal of employing 100 percent carbon-free sources of energy by 2050
  - Key elements of activity
    - Develop Two Task Forces around elements 1 & 2 – Led by VNEC
      - Task Force 1 - Commercial development plan

- Task Force 2 – R&D/Education plan
  - Input from additional stakeholders
  - Oversight and Advice from VNECA

**ENERGY ASSET INVENTORY:**

- Recent updates were provided and will be updated and posted to the VNECA website.

**OTHER TOPICS:**

- 2020 meeting
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter meeting schedule should be in line with Strategic Plan task force meetings.
  - Attendance for these meetings is crucial to making tight October 1 deadline for Strategic Plan
- 2020 meeting topics or speakers requested
  - DOE
  - Matt Kellam from VEWC

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- The Authority heard Erica Gray representing the Sierra Club.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

As all business was conducted for the day, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m. EST.