

# Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

10:00AM-12:00PM

Tuckahoe—Henrico County Public Library | Henrico, VA 23229

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 10:01 A.M.

The following VNECA Board Members were present: Tom DePonty, Jeffrey Fox, Rich Diddams, Eugene Grecheck, Bill Briscoe, Dan Stoddard, Andrew Hutton, Scott Kopple, Gary Tepper, Tim Stuller, Nam Nguyen (on behalf of John Warren) and Grant Kronenberg (counsel).

The following Virginia Energy staff were present: Brandi Frazier Bestpitch, Erik B. Olson, and Al Christopher (virtually).

Chair DePonty welcomed the board and provided a safety message on safety while driving in addition to welcoming new VNECA Board member Dan Stoddard from Dominion Energy. Board members briefly introduced themselves.

## **External Speaker – Sama Bilbao y Leon, Director General, World Nuclear Association:**

The Board heard a presentation from Sama Bilbao y Leon. Topics discussed included the World Nuclear Association's purpose and activities, discussion on the current state of nuclear energy globally, its potential role in decarbonization and energy development efforts, and recommended policy and financial actions necessary to support the global nuclear industry and meet energy policy priorities.

## **Virginia Department of Energy Updates – Al Christopher, Director, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency program:**

The Board heard the updates from Al Christopher on the following three items.

1. Leadership Changes
  - a. Secretary of Commerce and Trade
    - i. Secretary Caren Merrick
    - ii. Deputy Secretary Garrison Coward
  - b. Virginia Energy
    - i. John Warren still Director
    - ii. Will Clear is Chief Deputy Director
2. Virginia Energy Plan
  - a. VE creating leads and teams for topic areas in the portion of the plan that describes COV energy infrastructure and energy policies and objectives in the Code of Virginia
  - b. "All of the above" VEP is anticipated

- c. VE developing conceptual design of the plan and the process for developing it, including stakeholder and subject matter expert engagement, public comments, public meetings
3. Decarbonization Modeling report update
    - a. The report required by VCEA on least cost paths to decarbonize power generation was submitted.
    - b. The CPCN recommendation was not to continue the moratorium on new fossil fuel generation approvals
    - c. A Virginia Energy web page published the report, the CPCN recommendation, modeling results summaries, and public comments
    - d. <https://energy.virginia.gov/environmental/decarbonization.shtml>

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

Chair DePonty provided updates on behalf of April Wade. The Innovation Hub proposal has been updated and is close to done, but is being held while VNEC is working on further potential partnerships with Virginia HBCUs and Jefferson Lab. Should be close to done and will have an update by the March meeting.

Legislative update, VNEC is generally supporting HB 894 (legislation to establish stakeholder group led by VNEC and Virginia Energy studying placing nuclear technology at former fossil fuel sites) and are proposing edits that have generally been received positively. Chair DePonty is seeking a speaker that has experience in these projects.

VNEC is engaging with the Governor and Secretary of Commerce and Trade to ensure nuclear energy has a role in the upcoming plan.

### **Approval of December 2nd Meeting Minutes:**

The Board reviewed the meeting minutes from the Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 VNECA Board meeting. The minutes were unanimously amended to reflect Bill Briscoe's attendance and approved (motioned by Andrew Hutton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Kopple).

### **Nuclear News and Company Reports:**

Chair DePonty provided updates on various Department of Energy requests for information (RFIs) pertaining to the nuclear industry – including HALEU supply, the civil nuclear grant program, hydrogen hub concepts – as well as and DOE hiring and reorganization efforts. He also discussed updates on state policy efforts in support of nuclear energy. Andrew Hutton discussed receiving a congratulatory letter on his VNECA appointment from Del. Mike Mullin. Chair DePonty discussed the upcoming VNECA Board meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Comments:**

The Board heard public comment from Erica Gray, Mike Hatfield, and David Martin.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:27AM.