

THE CRITICAL ROLE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN VIRGINIA'S ECONOMY

Nuclear power supplies 35 - 40% of the electricity used in Virginia. Operating at more than 95% capacity, nuclear generation provides inexpensive electricity to Virginia consumers, and helps keep our energy costs low, making Virginia a competitive location for existing and new business. But that's only the beginning of the story of nuclear energy in Virginia's economy. A recent preliminary economic asset survey, produced by the VNECA, reveals:

- The nuclear energy sector is driving Virginia's economy in every region, offering high skilled jobs, supporting research and technology advancement and generating revenues at the state and local level.
- Virginia is home to facilities and operations of almost half a dozen global leaders in the nuclear energy sector. They include AREVA and Babcock & Wilcox (Lynchburg), Bechtel (Reston), Dominion (North Anna and Surry) and Newport News Shipbuilding (Newport News).
- Three major federal facilities located in Virginia – NASA Langley, Jefferson Lab and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard – are active in research, development and use of nuclear science and technology. Between the Naval Shipyard and Newport News Shipbuilding, the nation's nuclear powered Navy has its home in Virginia.
- Dozens of other companies, located all across Virginia, provide services, supplies and support to these major Virginia facilities. Testing services, materials and supplies, security, engineering services, and much more are provided to the industry by Virginia businesses.
- These companies operate and employ Virginians in towns as diverse as Abingdon, Alexandria, Arlington, Ashland, Chantilly, Charlottesville, Chester, Colonial Beach, Fairfax, Goochland, Hampton, Lynchburg, McLean, Mechanicsville, Roanoke and Virginia Beach to name but a few.
- Because many of these Virginia businesses have operations around the country and the world, it is difficult to determine total jobs and revenue numbers for Virginia alone, but it is likely the number exceeds 100,000 jobs across the Commonwealth and tens of billions of dollars that are tied directly to the nuclear energy sector. These generate substantial state and local tax dollars.
- Virginia Tech, Virginia Commonwealth University and Old Dominion University have established degree programs and research relationships to train the next generation of expertise needed to support the nuclear energy sector around the world.
- The universities, labs, and industrial base in Virginia are involved in cutting edge nuclear related research and development that will drive the Virginia nuclear economy of the future.