

Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority Board Meeting

Thursday July 27, 2023

10:00AM-12:00PM

Varina Area Library
1875 New Market Rd,
Richmond, VA 23231

Minutes

Call to Order and Introduction:

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

The following VNECA Board Members were present: Tom DePonty, Jeff Fox, Scott Kopple, Gene Grecheck, Woody Lawman, John Capps, Andrew Hutton, Larry Corkey, Bill Briscoe, and Tim Stuller. An in-person quorum of 9 members was met.

Virtual Participants include Rhonnie Smith, Randy Heflin, and Rich Diddams.

The following Virginia Energy staff were present: Ryan Welsh

The following guests were present: April Wade (VNEC), Michael Hatfield (Wise County Administrator), Will Payne (DELTA Labs), Chelsea Jenkins (Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade), Glenn Davis (Director Energy), and David Martin (Nuclear Free Virginia News).

The following provided public comment: Erica Grey (Sierra Club), Christopher Brooks, and Taysha DeVaughan (Virginia Council of Environmental Justice)

Chair DePonty welcomed the board and provided a hot weather safety message and the importance of hydration.

- VNEC provided the following updates
 - Virginia Innovation Nuclear Hub (VINH) updates
 - receive an update on SMR WG per [HB 894](#)
- Approval of April 21 minutes
- The 2023 September meeting will be in-person and scheduled during September in Richmond. Agenda items include:
 - VNECA 2023 Annual Report
 - VNEC updates on VINH and SMR WG
- Board Members gave industry updates
- Guest Speaker, Simon Glynn, chief strategy Officer of Lippincott and co-lead for Potential Energy Coalition, provided the board with a review of recent findings on nuclear public acceptance across 8 countries (USA, France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, UK, Japan, and South Korea), known as “The World Wants Nuclear.” The study was a

partnership between Potential Energy, REPLANET, Third Way and ClearPath. A copy of his presentation will be available on the [VNECA website](#).

- Guest Speaker, Will Payne, Managing Partner [Energy DELTA Lab](#), provided the board with a review of recent activities for the DELTA Lab related to nuclear development. A copy of his presentation will be available on the [VNECA website](#).

Public Comments:

Taysha DeVaughan asked how the Virginia Council of Environmental Justice would be engaged in the future as companies seek to deploy reactors in Southwest Virginia.

Christopher Brooks asked how SMRs were going to affect Southwest Virginia from an economic development and environmentally.

Erica Gray commented on how it is important in how we frame conversations around nuclear and providing participants and stakeholders with all information.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 A.M.