

Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 25, 2021

The fourth quarter meeting of the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) was held in person at Libbie Mill Public Library in Henrico County, Virginia with access also available by telephone, on October 25, 2021. Members in attendance included Jeff Fox, Bill Briscoe, John Capps, Larry Corkey, Tom DePonty, Gene Grecheck, Andrew Hutton, Scott Kopple, Woody Lawman, Michael Lempke, Tim Stuller, and Garry Tepper. Virginia Energy staff members included Brandi Frazier Bestpitch, Jordan Burns, and Erik Olson, were also in attendance as was Grant Kronenberg from the Office of the Attorney General, and April Wade from the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. EST by VNECA chair Tom DePonty. Upon opening, Assistant Attorney General, Grant Kronenberg, presented the policy on individual participation in Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (“Authority”) meetings by electronic means pursuant to §2.2-3708.2, which is attached to these minutes, for the Authority’s review and proposal. Upon a motion properly made by Bill Briscoe and seconded by Michael Lempke, and unanimously passed, the Authority adopted the policy. Following the vote, Chair Tom DePonty provided a brief safety message regarding the new meeting location and, with the new members joining VNECA, requested board member introductions.

With Virginia Energy leading the effort on the Virginia Decarbonization Modeling Report for the Commonwealth, April Wade, Executive Director of the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium (VNEC), provided an update of public comments submitted to Virginia Energy by VNEC. It was reported that nuclear was not included in the report due to lack of economic profiles behind new nuclear. With that, VNEC submitted a letter stressing that nuclear needed to be a part of the report in order to achieve the states decarbonization goals by 2045. Along with the letter, VNEC also submitted a copy of the Strategic Plan to provide supporting details on how to meet the decarbonization goals by including nuclear- looking at the market and how we get there from here. Al Christopher, Director of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency at Virginia Energy, was requested to provide an update on the next steps of the decarbonization modeling report for Virginia Energy. Al opened by providing an overview of the [Decarboization Modeling Report](#) and advised that following the September 9 webinar, Virginia Energy received and reviewed public comment on the decarbonization model that was submitted to the agency prior to the October 9 deadline. A draft of the report has been written and will be sent to the Secretaries of Natural Resources and Commerce and Trade for their review and comment in order to make the January 1, 2022 deadline. Chair DePonty then opened the floor to questions for the Director. In conclusion of the Decarbinzation Modeling Report discussion, Chair DePonty encouraged Virginia Energy and the Governor’s office to engage VNEC, VNECA, and the nuclear resources in the state– recognizing that there’s going to be a lot of evolution in terms of least costs on the road to 2045. He also encouraged flexibility and diversity in terms of clean energy resources available and that the

Commonwealth use the word “clean” energy as opposed to exclusively renewable energy resources wherever possible. This ongoing discussion will be added as a regular agenda item.

April Wade, Executive Director of the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium, provided an update on the FY2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Challenge proposal submitted by Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium. The proposal essentially sets up the foundation to build and manufacture a small modular reactor in the Southwest region of Virginia that will focus on bringing clean energy as well as an education model to the historically economically disadvantaged community.

April Wade also provide an update on the Virginia Innovative Nuclear Hub proposal. VNEC has hired a writer to assist with the heavy lift of the proposal drafting. VNEC is a couple of weeks behind but they continue to make progress.

Following the VNEC update, members reviewed the draft minutes from its April 29, 2021 meeting. Recommendation for edits were received for the Office of the Attorney General to state the nature of the emergency or the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held. Additional recommendations were received from Mr. Kopple recommending clarification on the federal programs. Once recommendations were organized, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Gene Grecheck and seconded by John Capps. The motion was unanimously approved.

Moving onto the Annual Report review, Chair DePonty recapped changes/additions being worked into the Annual Report including the recommendations from the meeting held in April, an update on the hub proposal, an update on board positions, and any additional other relevant updates/recommendations was requested. Changes from the April meeting were requested to be incorporated as well as asset inventory updates. A motion to approve the Annual Report pending inclusion of any company specific updates was made by Scott Kopple and seconded by Bill Briscoe. The motion was approved.

Finally, Chair DePonty discussed with the board that with Secretary Bob Bailey stepping down from his position at the end of last year, his recommendation for Virginia Energy assuming the role as secretary. Chair DePonty requested a motion to maintain current positions for another year and add Virginia Energy staff as secretary. A motion to approve the was made by Bill Briscoe and seconded by John Capps. The motion was approved.

On closing, April briefed the board on input VNEC provided to the Virginia Chamber for their Blueprint 2030 being issued in December 2021. Chair DePonty provided an update on FY2022 appropriations landscape for the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy and funding opportunities in advanced nuclear. Finally, discussed potential for speaker opportunities now that virtual platform is available and invited members to think about potential topics and guests that could benefit from this option.

There being no further business, Chair DePonty thanked Virginia Energy staff and VNECA members and adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.