

Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority

Virtual Meeting Minutes (draft approved April 29, 2021)

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

The fourth quarter meeting of the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) was held virtually on December 16, 2020. Members in attendance included Sean Agnew, Bob Bailey, Ken Ball, Bill Briscoe, John Capps, Al Christopher, Tom DePonty, Rich Diddams, Gene Grecheck, Andrew Hutton, Scott Kopple, Woody Lawman, Michael Lempke, and Tim Stuller. DMME staff members Brandi Frazier Bestpitch, Lynne Astroth, Jordan Burns, Larry Corkey, Nam Nguyen, and Barbara Simcoe were also present, as was Grant Kronenberg from the Office of the Attorney General and Joe Lerch, Director of Local Government Policy, Virginia Association of Counties.

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. EST by VNECA chair Tom DePonty. The General Assembly's language on holding electronic meetings was read by DMME staff Brandi Frazier Bestpitch. A motion to approve holding this electronic meeting was made by Andrew Hutton, seconded by Bill Briscoe. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote. Chair Tom DePonty also provided a brief safety message on winter driving to the group.

The members reviewed the draft minutes from its August 25, 2020 meeting. After a couple of minor modifications were suggested, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Eugene Grecheck and seconded by Sean Agnew. The motion was approved on a roll call vote. Bob Bailey noted that he was retiring and would step down from the VNECA Board. Although not Governor-appointed, he is a VNECA officer, so the Board will need to vote on a replacement during its next officer election.

The group then reviewed the Nuclear Energy Strategic Plan. Minor modifications related to innovation hubs were suggested, and a motion by Bill Briscoe to approve the revised Plan was seconded by Michael Lempke and approved in a roll call vote. Kudos were offered to DMME staff, April Wade (VNEC chair) and the VNEC Board for developing the Plan. In compliance with § 67-1700. *Nuclear energy; strategic plan* the approved plan will be posted on the [VNECA Website](#). VNEC will prepare a press release and op-ed in January. The possibility of seed funds for hub planning in the FY21 legislative budget will be discussed further in the next VNECA meeting in Q1 of 2021.

The 2020 VNECA Annual Report was discussed, and members were asked to review changes and provide updates from companies, etc. as soon as possible to provide any additional input to DMME staff. A question arose regarding whether meetings are to be listed by calendar or fiscal year. DMME staff will check prior reports and notify members so they can provide edits within the correct timeframe. We expect the Governor's office review of the report in early January, and VNECA will review and approve the final report at its Q1 meeting.

DMME staff will send out a Doodle poll in January to schedule the group's 2021 Q1 virtual meeting, taking into consideration that the Governor's office review of the annual report can take 4-6 weeks for completion.

Chair DePonty mentioned that several things were occurring in nuclear energy, such as the appointment of a new Secretary of Energy and the availability of additional federal funding. Award recipients for Risk Reduction Tier 2 funding were also announced today.

Public comments were received from Joy Levin from Climate Action, who asked if legislation would be introduced in the 2021 General Assembly re: nuclear energy issues. She was asked to email April Wade (through DMME staff) to discuss her query further.

There being no further business, Chair DePonty thanked DMME staff Brandi Frazier Bestpitch and VNECA members, wished everyone "happy holidays", and adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.