

2018 Virginia Energy Plan – Nuclear Recommendations

Support nuclear energy generation, research, development, and deployment of advanced technologies, education and workforce development and recognize nuclear energy's vital role in the Commonwealth's diverse electricity generation portfolio.

- **Workforce**

- Virginia's nuclear industry requires a highly skilled workforce with specialized training to support existing and next-generation nuclear reactor operations. To support the requirements of this workforce, Virginia shall establish an energy workforce and education pathway, and adopt an Energy Workforce Cluster.
- The nuclear workforce is diverse in its levels of skill and training required. The Commonwealth shall expand and develop its support for university degree and community college programs.
- The Commonwealth shall also work closely with industry to ensure the availability of skilled-craft labor; providing a pipeline of well-educated, skilled workers necessary to continue creating high-paying jobs for Virginians to enhance and develop the nuclear industry in the long term.
- STEM education is critical for the future workforce. Virginia shall expand and enhance STEM education, which the industry will support and assist with nuclear industry-specific content and opportunities.

- **New Technology & Innovation**

- Virginia is a global leader in nuclear energy, thanks to companies like Lightbridge, Framatome, BWX Technologies, Inc., Bechtel, Newport News Shipbuilding, Dominion and many others, and the Commonwealth's university education and research programs. The Commonwealth shall promote these assets and capabilities through support for additional research opportunities, funding, and establishment of new technology innovation centers. State support for federal research funding requests by providing matching funds will ensure continued development by our universities.
- Virginia shall continue to advance its role as a nuclear leader by working with the industry and educators to identify and support the next generation of technologies in the Commonwealth; helping attract opportunities for investment and public-private partnerships for new, advanced technology projects.

- **Promoting the Nuclear Industry and Education**

- Reinforce the efforts of the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority and the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium to make the Commonwealth a national and global leader in nuclear energy and serving as an interdisciplinary study, research, and information resource for the Commonwealth on nuclear energy issues.
- Regulatory certainty is essential given the long-lead decisions required for the continued safe and efficient operation of existing nuclear assets and the

substantial capital commitments associated with constructing new nuclear units. Virginia's energy policy shall view nuclear assets as 'clean' baseload source of electricity, which is responsible for significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

- Virginia plays a critical role in the national security as the home to one of the two nuclear-powered shipbuilding companies in the United States. The Commonwealth shall recognize and continue to support the naval nuclear fleet and lead efforts to ensure continued funding for the current and future class of aircraft carriers and submarines at the federal level.