

Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority

Tuesday March, 25

1:00PM-3:00PM

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Introductions:

The March 25, 2025, Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium was held in-person at the Fairfield Library in Henrico County. The meeting was called to order at 1:07 by VNECA Chairman, Tom DePonty, beginning with member and participant roll call, opening message, and spring yard work safety message.

The following VNECA Board Members were present: Ken Ball, Scott Kopple, Andrew Hutton, Tom DePonty, Mary Neumayr, Brian Vella, Eric Carr, Larry Corkey on behalf of Virginia Energy Director Davis, Tim Stuller, Calvin Lowe, Jeff Fox, and John Capps.

The following VNECA Board Members were present virtually: Rhonnie Smith and Randy Heflin

The following Virginia Energy staff were present: Vince Maiden, SEO Director, Brandi Frazier Bestpitch, Ashish Sedai

The following guests were present: Kristen Cullen, April Wade (VNEC), Jeff Whitt (VINH), Joe Lerch (VACO), Matt Glattfelder (SCC), David Essah (SCC)

- Virginia Energy Update was provided by Larry Corkey and Vince Maiden.
 - The [Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank \(VCEIB\)](#) powered by the SEO, provided funding to support the installation of an SMR control room simulator being developed by [NuScale](#) at George Mason University. This state-of-the-art training tool will prepare engineers and scientists to lead in high-skill, high-wage sectors that will propel our economy forward.
- Kristen Cullen, Vice President of Global Policy and Public Affairs at [Commonwealth Fusion Systems](#) provided an overview of the company, fusion technology, and the Virginia ARC project.

Commonwealth Fusion Systems (CFS), and MIT spin-off founded in 2018, is pioneering compact fusion energy using high-temperature superconducting magnets- moving toward its SPARC reactor, set to be operational by 2026- and scaling up to its ARC plant, planned for early 2030s operations Chesterfield County.

The Virginia ARC project, sited at Dominion Energy's James River Industrial Center, will generate approximately 400MW (enough to power ~150,000 homes), with Dominion providing technical expertise in power generation and Virginia Energy through the Clean Energy Innovation Bank awarded a \$1million grant (matched by Chesterfield County), backed by additional support from Virginia Energy, VEDP, and state leadership.

- [Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium \(VNEC\)](#) Briefing, April Wade, Executive Director, VNEC

April briefed members on activities including legislature planning and education for 2026, workforce initiatives, and Nuclear 101.

- VNEC Strategic Plan update

- Executive Summary
 - Overview of Virginia's strategic plan for nuclear energy from 2025 to 2029, highlighting key goals and initiatives.
- Topics carried from previous plan
 - Ensuring nuclear energy's contribution to a carbon-free future
 - Prioritizing nuclear energy innovation
 - Developing infrastructure and research & development
 - Continuing development of the nuclear workforce and educational opportunity
- Additional perspectives and differences from prior plan
 - Positioning energy demand as driver enhancing need for more nuclear
 - Enhanced focus on telling Virginia's nuclear story

VNEC is targeting distribution of the plan in April. The plan will be circulated to members to provide their feedback and prepare final version ready for VNECA approval at the Q2 meeting.

- [VIN Hub \(VINH\)](#) update

Jeff Whitt, Executive Director, Virginia Innovative Nuclear Hub briefed VNECA members on how he came into this new role over the VIN Hub and the mission of the Hub going forward. He presented the vision of the hub that Virginia will be recognized as a leader in all things nuclear in the US by bringing together Virginia's nuclear resources into a highly collaborative research team to serve as a leading nuclear research, engineering, and technology center. To do this, the hub has grouped their activities under three pillars including workforce development, research & development, and public outreach and engagement. Finally, the Executive Director presented his 90 day plan involving building relationships, finding opportunities, evaluating projects, developing plans, enhance processes and communication, and publicity.

- Approval of Past Meeting Minutes:
October 7, 2024 approval motioned by Erik Carr, seconded by Calvin Lowe.
- Nuclear News & Member Updates – Tom DePonty, VNECA Chairman
- Public Comments : None

Adjournment : 02:14pm EST