

**Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority  
Board Meeting**

Monday, December 14, 2015 | 10:00 a.m.

VCU East Engineering Hall | Room E3218 | Richmond, VA

**Draft Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) Board meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on December 14, 2015 in Richmond, Virginia

Donald Hoffman, Chairman of VNECA, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present: Chairman Donald Hoffman, Mary Alice Hayward, Bob Bailey, Al Christopher, Regina Carter, Colleen Deegan, Tim Stuller, Maureen Matsen, Ganapati Myneni, and Woody Lawman.

The following members were absent: Pam Norris, John Capps, David Christian, Gary Tepper, Srinath Ekkad, Matthew Mulherin, Bill Briscoe, and Mark Troutman.

The following VNECA staff was present: Chris McDonald

The following non-members were present: Marshall Cohen (Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium), April Wade (Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium), Eric Jenkins (Sulzer Ltd), Erica Gray (Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter), and David Martin (Martin Images News).

The Board approved the minutes from the August 20, 2015 meeting.

**VIRGINIA NUCLEAR ENERGY CONSORTIUM UPDATE:**

Marshall Cohen, Executive Director of the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium, provided an update on the Consortium's activities since the August 20, 2015 VNECA Board Meeting.

The Consortium has spent the end of 2015 focusing heavily on workforce development. They have been regularly holding teleconferences with the Virginia Energy Workforce Institute and are developing a workforce policy paper. The policy paper should be finished by the end of 2015 or early 2016. Upon completion, the Consortium will present the paper

to the board and eventually to the Legislature and Governor. The positions that the Consortium will take include (but are not limited to) implementing an energy workforce cluster in Virginia and raising awareness of energy careers as a part of the Commonwealth's K-12 education programming.

The Consortium has begun developing plans for a Virginia Nuclear Energy Conference that will focus heavily on workforce development. The conference – which could evolve into a joint NEI-VNEC conference – is being planned for March 2016. As planning continues, the Consortium will increase their outreach efforts and maintain steady contact with the Authority, especially those members on the supply side of the industry.

Mr. Cohen also highlighted the Consortium's efforts to support for the reauthorization of the US Export-Import Bank. The Consortium is extremely pleased that the Bank has been reauthorized for five more years.

Finally, the Consortium has also been hard at work trying to bring the CAER-IST facility back online and have been working with a number of VNECA and VNEC members to develop programs for the facility as well as find sources of operational funds. They have been working with all levels of government in this process: federal (through the Virginia congressional delegation), state (through the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade), and regional (through the Virginia Region Revitalization Commission).

Chairman Hoffman expressed his strong support for CAER-IST facility as it is a tremendous opportunity for Virginia, both for nuclear and non-nuclear parties. He voiced his excitement for the future of CAER-IST and hope that the Authority can help in this process.

## **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NUCLEAR ENERGY**

Chairman Hoffman provided a comprehensive update to the Authority on the status of and recent developments in nuclear energy in the United States. Despite the critical importance of nuclear energy and its necessity as a baseload energy supply, nuclear plants across the United States continue to prematurely shut down. This is economically and environmentally dangerous: nuclear energy necessary to meet carbon limits while nuclear facilities on average generate approximately \$490 million in sales of goods and services and create nearly \$46 million in total labor income.

Chairman Hoffman spoke about proposed legislation that would have the Federal Government formally acknowledge nuclear power plants as "National Assets." Furthermore, the Chairman spoke of his work to meet with all sitting U.S. Governors and his desire to establish Virginia as a model of state support for nuclear.

Finally, the Chairman briefly discussed the impact of the Clean Power Plan implementation and the role nuclear can take.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

Board Members discussed final revisions and updates to the 2015 VNECA Annual Report. Members finalized several edits:

- A seventh formal recommendation is to be included in the Annual Report. “7. Recognize and support nuclear energy issues and innovative nuclear technologies identified and pursued by the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium.”
- Include recent activities that the Authority has participated in on the national level with organizations such as the American Nuclear Society (ANS); the ANS Special Committee on Nuclear in the States; the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), the United States Nuclear Infrastructure Council (NIC); and the National Energy Agency (NEA).
- Include recent and future Jefferson Labs activities and briefly highlight the work of the Virginia Accelerator-Driven Systems (ADS) Consortium.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2015 Annual Report, contingent upon the inclusion of the aforementioned edits. The motion passed unanimously.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

With the 2016 legislative session coming up, the Authority agreed to monitor relevant legislation and if necessary consider weighing in.

VNECA staff will work with Chairman Hoffman to identify possible dates for the next Board Meeting. Staff will reach out to members in early 2016.

VNECA staff made one final reminder to Board Members that their Conflict of Interest filings were due on December 15. Staff agreed to reach out to each member individually regarding their status.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairman Hoffman opened the meeting to public comment and the Board received comment from Erica Gray, representing the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, who opposed expanded nuclear energy due to expressed concerns about the storage of spent

nuclear fuel, the safety of existing nuclear generation, and public faith in the nuclear industry.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

DRAFT