

**Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority  
Board Meeting**

Thursday, March 24, 2016 | 10:00 a.m.

VCU East Engineering Hall | Room E3218 | Richmond, VA

**Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) Board meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. on March 24, 2016 in Richmond, Virginia.

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

The following VNECA Members were present: Bob Bailey, Colleen Deegan, Mary Alice Hayward, David Christian, Bill Briscoe, Woody Lawman, Pam Norris, Al Christopher, Regina Carter, Ganapati Myneni, and Donald Hoffman.

The following VNECA Members were absent: John Capps, Srinath Ekkad, Maureen Matsen, Matthew Mulherin, Mark Troutman.

The following VNECA staff was present: Chris McDonald

The following non-members were present: Hayes Framme (Secretary of Commerce and Trade); Kelci Block (Office of the Attorney General); Marshall Cohen (Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium); Barry Fletcher (Newport News Shipbuilding); Eric Jenkins (Sulzer); Erica Gray (Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter); and David Martin (Martin Images News).

Chairman Hoffman proposed adopting the Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2015. Bill Briscoe moved for approval and was seconded by Colleen Deegan. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**OFFICER ELECTIONS:**

Donald Hoffman and Ganapati Myneni both asked to be considered as Chairman to the Authority. After each candidate made a brief speech, staff member McDonald distributed and tallied anonymous ballots. Donald Hoffman was elected by a majority of the members present.

Gary Tepper was nominated to serve as Vice-Chairman and was unanimously elected. Mary Alice Hayward was nominated to serve as Treasurer to the Authority and was

unanimously elected. Finally, Bob Bailey was nominated to serve as Secretary and was unanimously elected.

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT & CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT TRAINING**

Kelci Block, who serves as Counsel to the Authority on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General, made two presentations to the Authority. First, Miss Block provided FOIA training to the authority. Second, Authority members were given COIA training. Chris McDonald will circulate contact information and copies of the presentations to the Authority.

### **VIRGINIA NUCLEAR ENERGY CONSORTIUM UPDATE**

Marshall Cohen, Executive Director of the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium, provided a brief update on VNEC business.

First, VNEC was pleased to announce that Center for Advanced Engineering and Research and Integrated Systems Test (CAER/IST) had been granted funding by the Virginia Legislature in the 2016 Budget Bill (covering FY2017 and FY2018). CAER/IST received appropriations of \$600,000 (FY2017) and \$325,797 (FY2018), contingent upon the appropriation of federal funds from the United States Department of Energy or other sources that exceed \$3,000,000.

Next, Marshall Cohen announced that the joint conference between VNEC and the National Energy Institute (NEI) that he had mentioned in December was being finalized. The VNEC/NEI Virginia Nuclear Conference will be held June 6, 2016 in Richmond. Lt. Governor Ralph Northam has been scheduled as the key note speaker, and VNEC is currently exploring possible panel topics and other speakers. Mr. Cohen emphasized that VNECA should participate in this process and that Authority members should plan to attend. In the near future, Mr. Cohen will send out additional information and materials to VNECA Staff who will in turn distribute to VNECA members.

In addition to its own conference, VNEC will be participating in the Virginia Chamber of Commerce's upcoming Energy, Resiliency and Sustainability Conference, hosted in Richmond on May 10. VNEC Chairman, Dr. Alireza Haghghat, will be speaking on one of the panels.

Finally, VNEC has been continuing to focus on workforce development, most recently partnering with the Virginia Energy Workforce Consortium (VEWC) and planning to participate in upcoming VEWC conferences. VNEC hopes this partnership will aid in their goal to develop a new Energy Career Cluster to add to the 16 current Workforce Clusters. Additionally, VNEC aims to use this partnership to work towards developing an Energy Technology A.A.S. degree program.

## **RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NUCLEAR ENERGY/UPDATES FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Donald Hoffman provided the Authority with an updated briefing on Recent Developments in Nuclear Energy. Elaborating on his presentation from December 2015, Chairman Hoffman highlighted that when it comes to energy demands, environmental concerns, and economic realities, nuclear energy is the only source that can successfully address all three factors. In furtherance of this, Hoffman has been working with not merely third parties and organizations, but he has also been closely working with Governors across the country in an effort to find balance and areas of collaboration between these parties and successfully advance nuclear in the United States. Chairman Hoffman has also been advocating that other states adopt a VNECA-style approach nuclear energy.

The Chairman also highlighted recent developments in the work to pass legislation that would designate nuclear facilities as National Assets. This, he argued, is critical to putting nuclear on an even playing field with other energy sources and recognizing the importance of nuclear energy as a baseload power source. So far, approximately 30 Representatives and Senators have agreed to support this measure.

Finally, Chairman Hoffman noted that as 2016 is a presidential election year, he has been meeting with both parties' candidates and respective staffs.

### **STATUS OF ENERGY POLICY IN THE COMMONWEALTH:**

Hayes Framme, Advisor for Infrastructure and Development to the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, provided VNECA Members with a comprehensive rundown of the status of the Governor's Energy Plan and non-nuclear energy priorities. The Governor has maintained four key areas of emphasis in his Energy Plan: 1) strategic growth in the energy sector; 2) expanding best in class energy infrastructure; 3) talent development; and 4) advanced vehicles and alternative fuels.

Mr. Framme noted that the Governor has remained committed to improving the state of renewable energy in Virginia and highlighted several recent, key achievements. Such accomplishments include: the partnership between the Commonwealth, Dominion, and Microsoft for a 20 MW solar facility in Fauquier County; the Commonwealth's state renewable energy procurement target of 8%; and advancements in energy efficiency, such as the creation of the Committee on Energy Efficiency and the signing of Executive Order 31 (instructing all executive branch agencies, authorities, departments, and all institutions of higher education to proactively pursue energy efficiency measures). Mr. Framme also highlighted legislative and budgetary measures, including funding for the recently-created Virginia Solar Energy Development Authority (VSEDA), new net-metering bills from 2015 and 2016), and the special committee on energy that will begin to meet this summer to discuss myriad energy-related bills that were referred from the 2016 session.

VNECA members asked what they could do to assist with or advance the Governor's policies. Mr. Framme reiterated that workforce development and job creation remains the top priority for the Governor. To the extent that VNECA – and the nuclear industry – can advance the Governor's priorities, workforce development is key. Mr. Framme noted that the sister authorities to VNECA - the Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority (VOWDA) and VSEDA – were also focusing on this issue.

Chairman Hoffman noted that it could be beneficial for all Authorities to meet and provide briefings on their own activities and goals. At a minimum, bringing together the chairs of the authorities would be a helpful way to make sure everyone is up-to-date with each other. Since so many of the issues that any one Authority faces have overlap with the others, it could be extremely productive to bring everyone together and get on the same page.

### **REGIONAL INITIATIVES: KEY FACTORS FOR ACCELERATING NUCLEAR ENERGY DEPLOYMENT:**

Andrew Paterson briefly presented on the importance of a more comprehensive approaches to nuclear energy. Mr. Paterson posited that the nuclear industry cannot be sustained with merely episodic construction and development and therefore must focus on twin goals: new construction (including new/advanced reactor technology) and relicensing. Further, Mr. Paterson asserted that Virginia should not approach nuclear in an isolated way: rather, the Commonwealth should adapt to a more regional model as well as strike cooperative agreements internationally.

Finally, Mr. Paterson provided brief updates to the Authority on what is happening at a national level. The White House and Congress are both beginning to increase support for nuclear (for example, in February 2016 the Senate voted in favor of supporting innovation in advanced reactor technology). Mr. Paterson likened this new support for international to recent regional support, citing a report from the Southern States Energy Board declaring nuclear energy to be a cornerstone. The SSEB report he mentioned was from 2008, though Mr. Paterson noted they are updating their findings.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Gary Tepper announced that the Commonwealth's recently passed budget includes money for new research and development at VCU as well as an expansion of the School of Engineering. The new building will not house any particular engineering department and will instead be available for all engineering disciplines.

Chairman Hoffman expressed his hope that the Authority and Consortium would be able to work more closely in the future. Especially with the slate of upcoming conferences in

which VNECA and VNECA members will participate, the Authority hopes to collaborate and communicate more frequently with the Consortium.

### **NEXT MEETING**

To the same ends as enhancing the relationship between the Authority and the Consortium, Chairman Hoffman noted that it would be beneficial to arrange the next Board Meeting around the same time as the June 6 VNEC/NEI Conference. VNECA Staff will reach out to Board Members and work out possible dates and times.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

With official business wrapped up, Chairman Hoffman opened the meeting to public comment. The Board received comment from Erica Gray (Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter). Miss Gray expressed her gratitude for the Governor's strong focus on energy efficiency measures and the increased deployment of renewable energy and thanked Mr. Framme for providing such an encouraging rundown of the Commonwealth's Energy Plan.

Additionally, Miss Gray expressed her strong opposition to expanded nuclear energy due to her concerns about the cost of nuclear industry, the storage of nuclear fuel, the safety of existing nuclear generation, and public faith in the industry.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Colleen Deegan and seconded by Mary Alice Hayward. The meeting adjourned at 12:28.