

**Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority
Board Meeting**

Thursday, August 25, 2016 I 10:00 a.m.

VCU East Engineering Hall I Room E3218 I Richmond, VA

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

The Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority (VNECA) Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Donald Hoffman at 10:00 a.m. on August 25, 2016 in Richmond, Virginia.

The following VNECA Board Members were present: Donald Hoffman, Mary Alice Hayward, John Capps, Al Christopher, Dave Christian, Woody Lawman, Ganapati Myneni, Tim Stuller, Bill Briscoe, Bob Bailey, Srineth Ekkad, and Dr. Supathorn Phongikaroon (for Gary Tepper).

The following VNECA Board Members were absent: Colleen Deegan, Pam Norris, Mark Troutman, Maureen Matsen, Matthew Mulherin, and Regina Carter.

The following VNECA staff was present: Chris McDonald, DMME.

The following non-members were present: Erica Gray (Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter) and David Martin (Martin Images News).

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES:

Chairman Hoffman proposed adoption of the Meeting Minutes from the March 24, 2015 VNECA Board Meeting. Bob Bailey moved for approval and was seconded by Bill Briscoe. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE:

Chairman Hoffman provided an update to the Authority on the status of nuclear energy in the states, noting the premature shutdown of several more nuclear plants. Hoffman reiterated his continued support for the existing nuclear fleet and highlighted his efforts across the country to work with governors and congressional delegations to preserve and advance the nuclear industry. Hoffman also noted that he has begun and will continue meeting with the major party candidates for the upcoming 2016 presidential election to ensure that they and their staffs are aware of the critical role nuclear energy plans in

driving the economy, providing sufficient energy to meet baseline needs, and protecting the environment.

DEPUTY VICE CHAIRS FOR ISSUE AREAS:

Chairman Hoffman presented to the Board the concept of naming Deputy Vice Chairs for the Authority – issue-based positions that would focus on a particular area of nuclear energy and report back to the Board. This would allow a greater concentration on particular issue areas from Board Members most knowledgeable and passionate about them without overstressing the Authority at large. While these chairs would have the support of the Authority in pursuing these particular issue areas through research, conference participation, etc., there will be no *formal* action or endorsement of the Authority absent the full vote of the Board.

After discussion was had about the concept of Deputy Vice Chairs, Chairman Hoffman proposed naming Ganapati Myneni Deputy Vice Chair for Accelerator Driven and Molten Salt Designs. David Christian moved for the approval of this position and was seconded by Mary Alice Hayward. The Board unanimously approved.

ADVANCED REACTOR DESIGNS PRESENTATION:

Ganapati Myneni presented to the Board information about the Virginia Accelerator-Driven Systems (ADS) Consortium. Dr. Myneni highlighted the 3rd International Workshop on Accelerator-Driven Sub-Critical & Thorium Utilization, hosted by the Virginia ADS Consortium at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA in 2014. Dr. Myneni noted that the Virginia ADS Consortium would co-hosting this Workshop again in 2016 at Huddersfield University and in 2018 back here in Virginia.

Dr. Myneni also presented on ThorCon's new reactor designs, highlighting advancements in cost, size, and ease of installation. Staff agreed to post Myneni's presentations on the VNECA webpage as well as distribute to the group after the meeting.

VNEC UPDATE:

Chris McDonald provided a brief update to the Board on behalf of the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium. McDonald noted VNEC's efforts to work with federal agencies and the Virginia congressional delegation to secure more research funding for universities, their continued outreach efforts to promote Virginia's nuclear industry at the state and federal levels, and their continued work with the Center for Advanced Engineering and Research (CAER). Bob Bailey provided greater details regarding joint VNEC-CAER activity, noting the recent Memorandum of Understanding signed by both VNEC and CAER. Bailey explained that at this point, there are three key categories the MOU is designed to address: restarting the Integrated Systems Test (IST) facility, developing and furthering a cybersecurity

initiative, and helping coordinate with the Commonwealth on existing graduate engineering programs.

Chairman Hoffman expressed the continued desire for greater coordination between VNEC and VNECA, in particular with such as the MOU. Bailey agreed to help foster greater communication between the two groups as CAER is a key participant in the work of each organization.

COMMONWEALTH'S UPDATE:

Chris McDonald provided the Board with an update on the Commonwealth's recent energy activity. McDonald discussed the upcoming update to the Virginia Energy Plan and the role nuclear has in it. There will be information regarding the Authority's creation of VNEC, the work VNEC has done with CAER, and information regarding the Virginia ADS Consortium. McDonald asked that members send him any update they wished to include.

Next, McDonald presented on Executive Order 57, Governor McAuliffe's recently signed order that directs the Commonwealth to develop carbon reduction strategies for electric power generation facilities. While the workgroup born of this Executive Order will be limited to agency heads, McDonald proposed that VNECA consider ways to be involved as nuclear will play a large role in this. The workgroup is scheduled to meet for the first time on August 31, 2016. Following that meeting, McDonald will report back to the Authority with information about future meetings and chances for presentations.

2016 ANNUAL REPORT:

McDonald reminded the Authority that the 2016 VNECA Annual Report is due to the Governor and General Assembly no later than November 15, 2016. Discussion was had amongst the Board that VNECA should provide a more robust, proactive update than the 2015 report. In addition to updating the report's content to reflect the accomplishments of the Authority and its members, the Board agreed to consider possible changes and/or additions to the Authority's goals, recommendations, priorities, and more.

Chairman Hoffman asked that the Board send McDonald their updates, comments and suggestions by **September 30, 2016**. In turn, McDonald will put together a comprehensive draft to be discussed, edited, and voted upon at the next VNECA meeting.

NEXT STEPS:

Discussion was had about increasing and enhancing the activity of the Authority in the time between Board Meetings. Board Members agreed to forward information about future conferences, panels, etc. to McDonald so that he in turn could disseminate that information to the group at large in order to foster greater awareness and participation. Additionally,

the board agreed that there should be some form of calendar highlighting future activities of interest. Bob Bailey agreed to discuss with the Consortium the possibility of putting a calendar on their website. McDonald also agreed to send out more frequent updates to ensure all members are on the same page.

Hoffman proposed that the Board select their next two meeting dates now so as to avoid conflicts down the road. First, the Board agreed to hold their next meeting at the CAER facility in Bedford County on October 18, 2016 so as to coincide with CAER's re-opening event. Next, the Board agreed to meet back in Richmond on Thursday, December 8, 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Having concluded official business, Chairman Hoffman opened the meeting up for public comment. The Board received comment from Erica Gray (Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter). Miss Gray expressed her desire to learn more about Executive Order 57 and expressed her contentment that the Governor is seeking ways to further reduce carbon emissions in the Commonwealth.

Miss Gray further expressed her strong opposition to expanded nuclear energy due to her concerns about cost, storage, and safety. She noted that August 23rd was the 5th anniversary of the Virginia earthquake and noted her continued opposition to the North Anna nuclear facility (and in particular the concept of a new reactor there).

ADJOURNMENT:

McDonald stated that all materials would be distributed to the group as well as uploaded on the Authority's website.

With no additional business left, Bill Briscoe moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mary Alice Hayward. The meeting adjourned at 11:40.