



VIRGINIA NUCLEAR ENERGY CONSORTIUM

2015 Report

The Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium (VNEC) was formally launched and became completely operational in 2015 in accordance with Section 67-1404 of the laws of the Commonwealth. Following is a brief outline of VNEC's activities for this year:

- From January-July, 2015, VNEC undertook the following activities:
 - VNEC secured 8 Founding Members, each of whom paid an annual dues assessment, and whose representatives comprise the VNEC Board of Directors:
 - AREVA, Inc.
 - BWX Technologies, Inc. (BWXT)
 - Dominion Resources Services
 - GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy
 - Newport News Shipbuilding
 - University of Virginia
 - Virginia Commonwealth University
 - Virginia Tech University
 - At its first meeting in Feb 2015, VNEC selected a set of officers as follows: Chairman (Alireza Haghighat, VT), Vice-Chair (Sama Bilbao Y Leon, VCU), Treasurer (William A. Fox, BWXT), and Secretary (Tom Deponty, AREVA)
 - During this time period, VNEC secured legal and accounting services for incorporation, making federal filings, securing tax ID, developing By Laws and Operating procedures and completing other related organizational needs that were required in order to officially 'stand-up' the organization.
 - Effective July 1, 2015, VNEC secured through contract a part-time Executive Director to begin carrying out VNEC activities and priorities.
 - Effective July 2015, VNEC secured a part-time Director of Communications and Administrative Assistant to help execute VNEC activities and priorities.
- From July 1, 2015-December 31, 2015 the following activities have been undertaken:
 - Identify nuclear energy workforce issues and problems and begin coordinating the development of responses to those issues and problems through interaction with other workforce developments taking place in the Commonwealth.
 - Assist efforts to provide operational support for the Center for Advanced Engineering & Research (CAER), in Forest, VA, in collaboration with BWX Technologies, Inc. using BWXT's Integrated System Test (IST) Facility, located at the CAER.

- Establish a public presence of VNEC through website, social media and outreach to other nuclear and energy organizations.
- Identify nuclear energy research needs for Virginia as developed by VNEC University Members.
- Look for nuclear issue advocacy and educational opportunities where VNEC can provide support.
- Took an Initial survey of nuclear workforce issues and needs, efforts continue to refine and understand that data.
- A meeting was held with the Governor's Workforce Commission
 - Follow-up actions initiated
 - Develop new workforce actions
 - Proposing the adoption in Virginia of an Energy Workforce Cluster
 - Propose a nuclear technology certificate
- Outreach to the Virginia Center for Energy Workforce Development was made and follow-up coordinating activities are underway, including joint planning for workforce conference in 2016.
- Strategic plan for VNEC support for CAER/IST was developed, leading off with initial meeting and tour by the Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade.
 - VNEC is coordinating closely with CAER and BWXT on implementations of the plan for revitalization of research platforms at the CAER .
 - VNEC has mobilized strong support for the facility with key state policymakers with the goal of obtaining funds for the transition of the IST to operation.
 - Funding for CAER /IST will provide
 - A world class research facility to Virginia universities and companies
 - Jobs
 - R&D projects for Virginia Universities
- The VNEC website is live.
- VNEC has begun developing relationships with:
 - State policy makers, including the Governor, Cabinet officials
 - Members of the State Legislature
 - Lynchburg area business community (Location of the CAER/IST, BWXT and Areva)
 - The News and Advance newspaper in Lynchburg
- Engaged in public relations activities including press releases in support of VNEC's launch and Export Import Bank initiative, development of front page newspaper story about the CAER /IST in the News and Advance (Lynchburg paper).

- Development of promotional material for VNEC and the CAER/IST.
- Coordination with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) is underway, including the prospect of a joint NEI/VNEC Virginia nuclear suppliers and workforce conference early in 2016.
- VNEC sent letters of support for reauthorization of the US Export-Import Bank to the entire Virginia Congressional Delegation, and held several meetings with Congressional staff on the issue.
- VNEC Executive Director addressed a joint meeting of the Central Virginia chapter of ANS/ASME in December.
- VNEC has surveyed its Board member on developing a plan for outreach regarding additional dues paying Members.
- VNEC Chairman and the Chairman of the VNECA have met and discussed coordination of the two bodies. VNECA is a state entity and under the statute, VNEC is an independent, non-public body.
- 2015 efforts were conducted within its budget.

Virtually all of these activities carry over into 2016.