

Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority
Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 15, 2018 | 10:00 AM
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 by Chairman Tom DePonty at 10:08 A.M. EDT.

The following VNECA Board Members were present: Tom DePonty, Michael Lempke, David Christian, Ken Ball, Colleen Deegan, Rich Diddams, Bill Briscoe, Wood Lawman, Gene Grecheck, Andrew Hutton, Gary Tepper, Tim Stuller, Bob Bailey, and Will Payne.

The following VNECA Board Members were absent: Regina Carter, Pam Norris, John Capps, and Jack Lesko.

The following VNECA staff was present: Eric Bateman

The following non-members were present: April Wade, Erica Gray, David Martin, David Hallock

OPENING REMARKS:

After Chairman Tom DePonty called the meeting to order, he provided opening remarks to highlight the importance of safety during an emergency and being more alert out driving since school is back in session. He also provided an overview of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman DePonty proposed adoption of the meeting minutes from the March and June, 2018 meetings. David Christian moved for approval and was seconded by Bill Briscoe and Gene Grecheck. The Board unanimously approved both meeting minutes.

UPDATE ON 2018 ENERGY PLAN:

Will Payne, Chief Deputy for the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, provided members with an update on the status of the 2018 Virginia Energy Plan. Mr. Payne outlined the focus of the new plan, and how the stakeholder meetings and public comment has unfolded. He encouraged members and their respected businesses to also submit comment before the deadline.

2018 ENERGY PLAN:

Chairman DePonty opened up the discussion on the draft VNECA and VNEC recommendations to the 2018 Energy Plan. Members discussed how best to approach the recommendations given the additional information provided by Will Payne. Members agreed that it would be best to keep the recommendations broad for the Virginia Energy Plan and create specific, more granular goals on how to accomplish those recommendations in VNECA Annual Report.

Bob Bailey motioned to submit the recommendations with a cover letter, and Gene Grecheck seconded.

VNEC UPDATE:

April Wade, Executive Director of VNEC, provided an update on VNEC business. Ms. Wade highlighted the completion of the Consortium's Annual Report about a month ago. She also noted that VNEC recently hired David Hallock to help with developing a specific plan and actions on how to go forward with accomplishing the goals from the Annual Report. Ms. Wade also recently met with the Economic Development Authority to show the benefits of nuclear, new technologies, and supply chain.

MEMBER UPDATES:

Andrew Hutton shared an announcement from the Department of Energy regarding funding awards for advanced reactor research and development. He expressed the importance of Virginia businesses working together to secure these awards to expand economic development opportunities.

Bob Bailey shared an update on American Nuclear Society's Annual Strategic Plan and recommended that VNECA be more aligned in its message, goals, and resource allocation. Gene Grecheck offered insight into some of the programs and education that American Nuclear Society uses its resources on.

Chairman DePonty updated members on a recent event with Governor Northam that was used to express the importance and value of nuclear in the state. He noted that Pennsylvania has established a Nuclear Energy Caucus that will be releasing a report by the end of this year analyzing the impacts of nuclear. The report will also include recommendations that policy makers could implement that would encourage more nuclear investments in the state. Gene Grecheck noted that at minimum, the state should be taking a stance of maintaining its nuclear assets since any time a nuclear power plant is shut off, emissions go up. David Christian noted that this has significant impacts on sea level rise.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman DePonty offered members the opportunity to make suggestions on future speakers to Eric Bateman. Eric Bateman reminded members that the VNECA Annual Report is due November 15th and that the next meeting should be scheduled before that.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Erica Gray of the Sierra Club expressed concerns about the delay of the Radioactive Effluent and Environmental Reports for North Anna. Ms. Gray also reminded members that North Anna 1 and 2 is in the seismic zone. She also expressed concerns about nuclear waste and storage. She believes that schools should be focusing on decommissioning rather than keeping the plants open, while also focusing more on renewables.

ADJOURNMENT:

As all business was conducted for the day, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m. EST.