

VIRGINIA NUCLEAR ENERGY CONSORTIUM

Executive Order 57
Working Group

Richmond, VA
February 28, 2017

VNEC

- *In 2013, the General Assembly created the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium Authority for the purpose of:*
 - Making Virginia a national and global leader in nuclear energy, science and technology
 - Serving as an interdisciplinary study, research and information resource for nuclear energy in Virginia
- Incorporated (non-profit) and Operational, July 1, 2015
- Mission
 - To sustain and enhance the Commonwealth of Virginia as a national and global leader in nuclear energy and serving as an interdisciplinary business development, research, training and information resource on nuclear energy issues.

Membership

- Areva
- BWX Technologies, Inc.
- Dominion Resources
- Newport News Shipbuilding
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Tech

Officers & Staff

- **Dr. Sama Bilbao y Leon, Chairman of the Board**
 - Associate Professor, Director of Nuclear Engineering Programs
Department of Mechanical & Nuclear Engineering
Virginia Commonwealth University
- **Dr. Alireza Haghighat, Vice Chairman**
 - Professor, Director of Nuclear Science and Engineering Lab at Arlington
Nuclear Engineering Program, Mechanical Engineering Department
Virginia Tech Research Center
- **John Harrell, Treasurer**
 - Manager , Nuclear Safety Engineering
Dominion
- **Tom Deponty, Secretary**
 - Director of Public Affairs & Advocacy
Areva
- **Marshall Cohen, Executive Director***
- **April Wade, Director of Communications***

- *NOTE * Part time*

2016-17 Strategic Priorities

- Advocacy for nuclear-supportive public policy
- Enhanced nuclear research opportunities for Virginia Universities
- Actions to meet nuclear and overall energy industry workforce needs
- Support for CAER/IST research center
- Public information and education
- Policy-maker education, information and briefings
- Support relicensing for Existing Nuclear Generation Facilities

Key Accomplishments to Date

- Continued support for Research at the CAER/IST Facility
 - Developed and executed advocacy strategy resulting in financial backing in the 2017 Commonwealth budget
 - Signed an MOU with CAER
 - Joint efforts to bring more nuclear research dollars into Virginia
 - Help promote and market the facility and its capabilities to DOE, NRC, national labs and others
- Develop the Next Generation Nuclear Workforce
 - Develop nuclear workforce action agenda:
 - Advocate for Virginia to create an official Energy Cluster/Pathway in its Workforce Program
 - Advocate state nuclear workforce needs and recommendations to legislative and state government officials regarding workforce needs
 - Coordinate advocacy efforts with the Virginia Energy Workforce Consortium, IBEW, and others
- First ever Virginia Nuclear Summit, 2016, jointly held with national Nuclear Energy Institute-over 100 participants
- Invited participant at national nuclear summit in Washington DC held by Third Way--only state organization invited

Key 2017 Initiatives

- Congressional Delegation Briefings
 - Initiating concept of Congressional Delegation assistance in presenting Virginia nuclear research capabilities to new team at US Department of energy
- Virginia Gubernatorial Candidate Briefings
- Active support for Virginia reactor relicensing
- “Day on the Hill” in Richmond for nuclear engineering students
- Statewide Energy Workforce Pathways Conference, jointly with VA Community College System, Department of Education and Virginia Energy Workforce Consortium—March 3rd
 - Goal is to identify consensus workforce policy issues that can be taken to state and federal policymakers for consideration
- Expand VNEC membership
- Develop nuclear engineering scholarship program

Recommendations for the Commonwealth of Virginia

- Recognize and give credit to the value of nuclear generated electricity and nuclear related manufacturing in the Commonwealth because of its impact on clean air, jobs, economic benefits and contributions to national security
- Support License Extensions for Existing Nuclear Generation Facilities
- Support new nuclear generation facilities as may be proposed
- Support initiatives to enhance nuclear and general energy workforce pathways, through Community Colleges, STEM programs and University training--consider allocation of additional resource for those programs.
- Support efforts to bring more US Department of Energy nuclear research grants and opportunities into Virginia
- Support the Center for Advanced Energy Research in Bedford, VA.
- Support existing university nuclear training programs
- Support a nuclear engineering scholarship program

www.virginianuclear.org



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