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 VNEC secured 8 Founding Members, each of whom contributed an initial dues payment, and 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, it 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 that time period VNEC secured legal and accounting services for incorporation, making federal filings, securing tax ID, developing our By Laws and Operating procedures and completing other related organizational needs that were all 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.
* In July, VNEC initial priorities were initiated:
* 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 takin place in the Commonwealth.
* Assist efforts to provide operational support for the Center for Advanced Engineering & Research (CAER), Forest, VA, in collaboration with BWX Technologies, Inc. using their Integrated System Test (IST) Facitlty, located at the CAER.
* Establish a public presence of VNEC through website, social media and outreach to other nuclear and energy organizations.
* Receive and begin to support nuclear energy research needs for Virginia; developed by VNEC University Members.
* Look for nuclear issue advocacy and educational opportunities where VNEC can provide support.
* From July 1, 2015-present the following activities have been undertaken:
* Initial survey of nuclear workforce issues and needs was completed
* A meeting was held with the Governor’s Workforce Commission and follow-up actions initiated.
* Outreach to the Virginia Center for Energy Workforce Development was made and follow-up coordinating activities are underway.
* VNEC is supporting and coordinating the possibility of a Virginia Energy Workforce Summit in early January, where it is contemplated recommendations for the Governor and Legislature will be developed.
* Strategic plan for VNEC support for CAER was developed, leading off with initial meeting and scheduled tour by the Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade. VNEC is coordinating closely with the CAER and BWXT on implementations of these strategies.
* The VNEC website is live.
* Engage in public relations activities including press releases in support of VNEC’s launch and Export Import Bank initiative.
* Development of promotional material.
* Coordination with the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) is underway, including the prospect of a joint NEI/VNEC nuclear suppliers conference early in 2016.
* VNEC sent letter 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 has been invited to address a joint meeting of the Central Virginia chapter of ANS/ASME in December.
* VNEC has begun outreach to secure 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.