



**VIRGINIA IS FOR  
NUCLEAR**



Scan Me

## 2026 Summit

*Charting Virginia's Course as the Nation's Nuclear Leader*

Thursday, June 18, 2026 | Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond | 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### Summit Purpose

Virginia is a national leader in the nuclear industry. This summit convenes government, industry, academia, and military leaders to advance that leadership through near-term policy, investment, supply chain, workforce, and innovation strategies — strengthening energy security, economic growth, and clean firm power.

### Strategic Plan Alignment

Panels are organized around the six pillars of the [Virginia is for Nuclear Strategic Plan \(2025-2029\)](#) — advancing nuclear deployment, economic growth, education and workforce, research and innovation, energy security, and outreach and advocacy.

Time	Session & Speakers
8:00–8:30 AM	<b>Registration &amp; Networking Breakfast</b>
8:30–9:00 AM	<p><b>Opening Plenary — Virginia Leadership: International, National, &amp; State</b></p> <p><b>Welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Dr. Susan Barker</a>, Associate Dean, Research and Innovation, <b>Virginia Commonwealth University</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">April Wade</a>, Executive Director, <b>Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium (VNEC)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Vision Award Presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">John Harrell</a>, Chairman, <b>Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium (VNEC)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Featured Speaker &amp; Recipient</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Sama Bilbao y León</a>, Director General, <b>World Nuclear Association</b> (via video)</li> </ul> <p><b>Remarks &amp; Panel Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Jeff Whitt</a>, Executive Director, <b>Virginia Innovative Nuclear (VIN) Hub</b></li> </ul>
9:00–9:50 AM	<p><b>Panel 1 — Virginia Deployment Pathways</b></p> <p><i>Examines the state of utility-led nuclear deployment in Virginia — momentum, bottlenecks, incentive needs, and how data center demand is shaping near-term priorities.</i></p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Emil Avram</a>, Senior Vice President, Generation Development, <b>Dominion Energy</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Randy Keppler</a>, Managing Director of Engineering, Nuclear Development; <b>American Electric Power</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <a href="#">April Wade</a>, Executive Director, <b>Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium (VNEC)</b></p>

Time	Session & Speakers
9:50–10:05 AM	<b>Networking Break</b>
10:05–10:55 AM	<p><b>Panel 2 — Building Virginia's Nuclear Supply Chain Advantage</b></p> <p><i>Explores Virginia's manufacturing and R&amp;D strengths in the nuclear supply chain — supplier gaps, qualification timelines, and investment opportunities — and the state's role in making the broader U.S. and international nuclear buildout succeed.</i></p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Alan Thomas</a>, Vice President Products &amp; Engineering, <b>Framatome</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">David Long</a>, Vice President of Operations, <b>HII Nuclear</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Erik Nygaard</a>, Vice President, Commercial Microreactor Products, <b>BWX Technologies</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Michael Robinson</a>, Principal Vice President and Project Manager, <b>Bechtel</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <a href="#">Lauren Hughes</a>, Deputy Director, Nuclear Energy Policy Initiative, <b>Atlantic Council</b></p>
10:55–11:45 AM	<p><b>Panel 3 — Workforce at Scale: Training for a Nuclear Buildout</b></p> <p><i>Addresses how Virginia's K–12 schools, community colleges, universities, trade programs, and employers can build a unified workforce pipeline to meet growing nuclear industry demand.</i></p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Dr. Arvind Agarwal</a>, Professor and Chair, Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, <b>Virginia Community College</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Dr. Jason Ferguson</a>, Chief Workforce Officer and Associate Vice President, <b>Central Virginia Community College</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Jeff Whitt</a>, Executive Director, <b>Virginia Innovative Nuclear (VIN) Hub</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Matt Kellam</a>, Manager - Workforce Development &amp; Planning at Dominion Energy, <b>Dominion Energy</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <a href="#">Nicole Hughes</a>, Senior Director Workforce Solutions, <b>Thomas Thor</b></p>
11:45 AM–12:30 PM	<b>Lunch</b>
12:30–1:00 PM	<p><b>Commonwealth Leadership Spotlight</b></p> <p><i>Recognizing leadership in advancing Virginia's nuclear future.</i></p> <p><b>Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Josephus Allmond</a>, Chief Energy Officer, <b>Office of Governor Abigail Spanberger</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Virginia is for Nuclear Leadership Award Presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Recipient:</i> <a href="#">Senator David W. Marsden</a> (SD– 35)</li> </ul>
1:00–1:15 PM	<b>Networking Break</b>
1:15–2:05 PM	<p><b>Panel 4 — Research, Innovation, and Commercialization</b></p> <p><i>Explores how Virginia universities, national laboratories, and developers can advance the nuclear innovation pipeline, advocate for a Virginia research and education reactor, and shorten time-to-commercialization.</i></p> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Dr. Alireza Haghghat</a>, Director of Nuclear Engineering Program, <b>Virginia Tech</b></li> </ul>

Time	Session & Speakers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Brian Smith</a>, Chief Technology Officer, Nuclear Science &amp; Technology, <b>Idaho National Laboratory</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Fred Epstein</a>, Associate Vice President for Research, <b>University of Virginia</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Erik Cothron</a>, Manager of Research &amp; Strategy, <b>Nuclear Innovation Alliance (NIA)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <a href="#">Kara Colton</a>, Director of Nuclear Energy Programs, <b>Energy Communities Alliance (ECA)</b></p>
2:05–2:20 PM	<b>Networking Break</b>
2:20–3:10 PM	<p><b>Panel 5 — DoD: Advancing Nuclear Deployment for Military Installation Resilience</b></p> <p><i>Examines how Virginia's military installations can leverage advanced nuclear, SMRs, and microreactors for energy security, and how federal-state-utility coordination can reinforce both military and civilian deployment plans.</i></p> <p><b>Fireside Chat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Captain Daniel Patrick</a>, Base Commander, <b>Naval Weapons Station Yorktown</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Todd Flowers</a>, Director, Generation Development, <b>Dominion Energy</b></li> </ul>
3:10–3:20 PM	<b>Setting the Stage</b>
3:20–4:10 PM	<p><b>Wrap-Up Panel — Key Takeaways and Opportunities for Virginia</b></p> <p><i>Draws across all six pillars of Virginia's nuclear strategic plan to synthesize the day's themes, highlight points of consensus, and identify investment, partnership, policy, and advocacy opportunities going forward.</i></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Braden Croy</a>, Program Director, <b>Dominion Energy Innovation Center</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Randall Stamper</a>, Associate Vice Chancellor, Career Education and Workforce Programs, <b>Virginia's Community Colleges</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Nikki Hashemian Sizemore</a>, Director, Government Affairs, <b>Kairos Power</b></li> <li>• <a href="#">Seth Grae</a>, CEO, <b>Lightbridge Corporation</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <a href="#">April Wade</a>, Executive Director, <b>Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium (VNEC)</b></p>
4:10–4:30 PM	<b>Closing &amp; VCU Tour</b>