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VNEC Members Include:

Appalachian Power
Dominion Energy
Framatome Inc.
GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy
Holtec International
Liberty University
Lightbridge Corporation
Newport News Shipbuilding
NuScale Power
University of Virginia
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech University
X-Energy Reactor Company, LLC

March 29, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium, I would like to express support for Virginia Energy's application as part of the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction (CPRG) program. This application envisions a partnership with Dominion Energy Virginia (DEV) to develop a small modular reactor on land adjacent to Dominion's existing North Anna power station.

VNEC was created to represent stakeholders invested in the development of nuclear energy. These stakeholders include the state of Virginia, institutions of higher education, nuclear energy companies, suppliers, and local organizations that support the advancement of the nuclear industry. VNEC's mission is to sustain and enhance the Commonwealth of Virginia as a national and global leader in nuclear energy and serve as an interdisciplinary business development, research, training, and information resource on nuclear energy issues.

The Virginia Department of Energy's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application is in line with both VNEC's mission and Governor Glenn Youngkin's energy plan, which calls for an ambitious plan to leverage the tremendous nuclear industry assets in the Commonwealth of Virginia to advance new energy technologies such as advanced nuclear technologies to meet Virginia's energy needs while reducing carbon emissions.

Virginia is home to many nuclear companies in both the commercial and defense/government sectors. Companies like Framatome, BWXTechologies, Lightbridge, and Huntington Ingalls/Newport News Shipbuilding have advanced nuclear power from Virginia for many years. Dominion, for its part, currently provides more than 30% of the state's energy via nuclear, and accounts for more than 90% of Virginia's carbon-free generation.

An SMR in the Commonwealth will bolster Virginia's energy portfolio, create jobs, and contribute to a cleaner and more reliable grid. SMRs are an exciting advance in nuclear technology. They will allow smaller, modularly built reactors to be deployed and operated more easily, close to local communities that need the power, and often have the workforce available to meet employment needs.

Nuclear power is one of the cleanest and most reliable sources of energy globally. Deploying advanced SMRs will drive economic growth in Virginia, and the plan to build SMRs will open up new avenues for education and jobs in the nuclear industry. It will provide significant opportunities to the region and the Commonwealth.

We urge you to approve the Virginia Department of Energy's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application. This would help continue Virginia's long history with nuclear power while bringing new technologies and innovations to Virginia and the US.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "April Wade", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

April Wade
Executive Director