

**NORTH CAROLINA ENERGY POLICY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
10:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 15, 2023
Archdale Ground Floor Hearing Room
512 N. Salisbury. St, Raleigh, NC**

ENERGY POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian LiVecchi	John White
Chris Millis	Paul Worley
Gus Simmons	Venu Ghanta
John Hardin	Susan Munroe
John Szoka	Sushma Masemore

ENERGY POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Paolo Carollo	Scott Tew
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CALL TO ORDER

Lt. Governor Designee, Mr. Brian LiVecchi called the Energy Policy Council (EPC) meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. He opened the meeting and welcomed the members and participants. Mr. LiVecchi asked for a motion to approve the EPC's August 16, 2023, meeting minutes. Mr. John White moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Venu Ghanta seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. LiVecchi reminded everyone of the State Ethics Act and to ensure awareness of avoiding any conflict of interest. Any questions the council has will be discussed after the speakers present their topics. He then stated that the presenters would begin their presentation concerning updates on Offshore Wind.

**OFFSHORE WIND: GENERATING ABUNDANT, DIVERSE & RESILIENT ENERGY:
JOHN LARSON**

After being introduced by Mr. LiVecchi, Public Policy and Economic Development Director of Dominion Energy, Mr. John Larson began his presentation on the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Update. He first started on the project that is currently under development built on the success of the two-test turbine pilot project. During his presentation, Mr. Larson spoke on various topics surrounding the project such as the large components, outreach method, offshore wind fleet, their vision for offshore wind industry cluster, and a few other topics. While discussing the scheduling and budget, Mr. Larson reassured the council that they are on track. He additionally stated that they have forecasted an 85% demand in growth over the next fifteen years, which will lead to frequent seasonal peaks (“*All of the Above Approach*”). In closing, Mr. Larson provides the benefits of offshore wind and the support it can bring to the project.

Following his presentation and opening the floor for questions/comments, Mr. John Szoka first mentioned Mr. Larson’s discussion concerning cost and how Dominion has used other measures to calculate. Upon asking if it was described somewhere Mr. LiVecchi additionally asked how it compares to other sources of generations that was included in the presentation. Mr. Larson stated that understanding what units to run, when, and how to optimize. He added that in comparison to other sources, natural gas is going to be less due to the less infrastructure to go with it, but it’s not

out of the money. When asked if there are any existing units in the portfolio, Mr. Larson states that there are four units in Virginia and a few others in Connecticut and South Carolina. After further discussion, Mr. John Hardin asked if any North Carolinians were being employed for the project for Virginia as it concerns job numbers and percentages. Due to the review of the Hampton roads and economic development region, Mr. Larson said he would have to look at the data but would be surprised if there were not a number of North Carolinians coming up. Mr. Chirs sked if the cost comparisons that do not utilize the method of levelized cost of electricity could be shared as they would be helpful to see due to the comparison between dispatch concern. , to which Mr. Larson stated they could provide them upon further study. Mr. Worley asked about further understanding of the Jones Platform and if others are doing this with international or foreign equipment/platforms. Mr. Larson provided an example of how the two turbine installations had to be approached.

In continuing discussion with the council, Mr. Larson stated that the anticipated completion date for their installation season for turbines starts in the second half of 2025. After providing additional guidance on the timeline process for construction, Ms. Susan Munroe congratulated Mr. Larson for the project being on time and on budget. She added that offshore wind added to the existing grid doesn't really need backup. Ms. Sushma Masemore asked if further insight could be brought about concerning economic activity/growth on the particular project and where the plan for the 85% demand growth projection would take place (*i.e., population increase, electrification, etc.*). Mr. Larson stated that the Hampton Roads Alliance is a regional economic development organization that assist with commissioning an economic study of the impacts of offshore wind in Virginia that provided numerous findings ad another study concerning resources and the whole Hampton Roads region. He additionally added that the 85% demand growth estimate surrounds data center growth. In closing, Mr. Szoka asked about the order of magnitude to reduce the cost concerning turbines. Mr. Larson stated that you wouldn't have the transportation costs and while there isn't an estimate/percentage, the potential to build out can be trillions of dollars from the manufacturing base. Following continued discussion, Mr. Larson thanked the council for their time and ended his presentation. Mr. LiVeechi introduced the next presenter concerning Offshore Wind.

OFFSHORE WIND: DR. MICHAEL MAZZOLA

After introducing himself, and his role as the Executive Directo with a dynamic research center (*Energy Production Infrastructure Center*) in the University of North Carolina Charlotte's College of Engineering, Mr. Michael Mazzola began his presentation on Offshore Winde and the Energy Transformation. He first provided a brief background on the energy industry within Charlotte. With numerous changes happening in the past decades, Mr. Mazzola stated that not only is the industry growing, but also over 300,000 jobs have been added in 2022 and a 3.9% increase in clean energy jobs. During his presentation he talked about the key reasonings for why the next steps should include offshore wind: (1) It's commercially available, (2) It's affordable, (3) It creates high-paying jobs. He also added that offshore wind industry's estimated investment in NC will create more jobs and economic development for future generations.

Throughout his discussion, Mr. Mazzola topics within offshore wind concerning cost-competitiveness, diversification of resources improvement, and various other topics. He closed the presentation by mentioning the CLEANcarolinas. Mr. Mazzola discussed some of their partners such as Siemens Energy, Dominion Energy, Duke Energy, amongst many others. The strategic focus stated that it is to "Convene regional stakeholders and engage communities to help build

support for the deployment of wind, marine, and solar clean energy technologies in the Carolinas”. In closing, he speaks on the support needed from legislatures, policymakers, government officials, executives and numerous companies to promote the vision and objectives of CLEANcarolinas.

Following his presentation, Mr. LiVeechi asked if building support for nuclear clean energy technology in the Carolinas is a part of the strategic focus. Mr. Mazzola stated that it is something being looked at concerning their specific activities. In agreeance, Ms. Masemore that a broader focus would be beneficial in which an evaluation of the hydrogen economy and where the state stands and whether it now or in the future would be worth exploring. While it isn’t in the presentation, Mr. Mazzola agreed and stated that it is listed in their proposal. Upon continued open discussion with the council concerning the diversification of resources and improving grid reliability, Mr. Mazzola ended his presentation and thanked the council for their time.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Energy Assurance Committee

Sub-Committee Chair, Mr. Paul Worley, mentioned that the Energy Assurance Committee meeting was cancelled for the month of November. Nevertheless, he reminded the council of the recommendation topics for the Biennial Report.

Energy Efficiency Committee

Sub-Committee Chair, Mr. Scott Tew, was not present, so Ms. Star Hodge provided an update and stated that the Energy Efficiency Committee meeting was cancelled for the month of November. No further updates were provided.

Energy Infrastructure Committee

Sub-Committee Chair, Mr. Gus Simmons, mentioned that the Energy Infrastructure Committee meeting was cancelled for the month of November. Likewise, he reminded the council of the recommendation topics for the Biennial Report.

Energy Innovation Committee

Sub-Committee Chair, Mr. John Hardin, provided updates on EI's mission statement that was finalized during the last EPC meeting. He mentioned that their committee is also preparing for the Biennial Report recommendations and researching potential topics that can be discussed for Energy Innovation (i.e., hydrogen, solar, etc.).

NEW BUSINESS: BIENNIAL REPORT

Mr. LiVecchi discussed the binder’s documentation consisting of the Biennial Report timeline concerning projections of when topics can be discussed, recommendations being draft, final review, and submittal. He additionally discussed the proposed calendar dates for the committee full EPC meetings for the 2024 year. He lastly informed the council of the current committee standings and stated that if anyone was interested in being a part of another committee to feel free to reach out to EPC staff.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Upon opening the floor for public comment, no comments were made.

CLOSING COMMENTS

With no further comments, Mr. LiVecchi said that the next meeting would be held on February 21, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. He thanked the presenters and council for their discussion today and asked if anyone had any additional comments from the committee. With no other comments, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Szoka. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Meeting Minutes Approved on: **February 21, 2024**