



Commonwealth of Virginia  
Office of the Governor

## Executive Order

NUMBER SIXTEEN (2014)

### ESTABLISHING THE VIRGINIA ENERGY COUNCIL

#### Importance of the Issue

The Commonwealth of Virginia's energy industry is a source of great pride, prosperity, and potential. Historically, Virginia has ensured reliable and affordable energy, helping businesses and consumers thrive. The Commonwealth boasts tens of thousands of energy-related jobs, including miners, gas well crews, manufacturing workers, engineers, mechanics, computer programmers, accountants, and managers. Virginians can and should be proud of the energy industry, but a changing market and energy environment requires decisive action to position the Commonwealth to be a national leader in innovative energy generation and utilization. Virginia must continue to leverage its business-friendly climate, high-quality research and educational institutions, and varied energy resources to attract businesses and create jobs. This requires Virginia to develop and implement a cohesive, comprehensive, and aggressive strategy for energy policy.

The Commonwealth will update the Virginia Energy Plan ("Plan") to be submitted to the General Assembly by October 1, 2014. The Plan will address the objectives of the Commonwealth Energy Policy set forth in the *Code of Virginia*.

These objectives include:

- Accelerating the development and use of renewable energy sources – Virginia can become a hub of innovative and alternative energy research and development by focusing on expanding the use of the Commonwealth's underutilized renewable assets, such as solar and offshore wind.
- Increasing energy productivity through greater efficiency – Virginia can become a national leader in energy efficiency practices that will increase the productivity of the energy used by citizens and businesses throughout the Commonwealth, while not imposing a disproportionate adverse impact on economically disadvantaged or minority communities.

- Promoting a diverse energy mix – Virginia should continue to increase the diversity of sources used to generate energy in the Commonwealth to ensure that we are not overly-reliant on particular sources.
- Growing jobs in the energy sector – Virginia’s quality higher education institutions and world-class community college system are well-positioned to educate and prepare the next generation of energy workers. A trained and skilled energy workforce will attract new businesses and help expand existing businesses.

To achieve these objectives, it is critical that the Commonwealth engage the private sector, localities, and other interested stakeholders to develop significant and meaningful energy policies.

#### Establishment of the Council

The Governor shall create The Virginia Energy Council (“Council”), an advisory group comprised of members representing all areas of the Commonwealth’s energy industry. The Council shall work to formulate a comprehensive and innovative energy plan.

All members of the Council will be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at his pleasure.

#### Responsibilities and Duties of the Council

The 20-25 person Council is charged with working to update the Virginia Energy Plan. Duties of the Virginia Energy Council include:

- Receiving, reviewing, and evaluating input offered by Virginia’s residents and businesses related to the Plan;
- Developing strategies to make Virginia a national leader in energy efficiency and ensure that the cost of energy for Virginia consumers remains highly competitive;
- Developing strategies to increase the diversity of energy used to power Virginia, while ensuring a commitment to the most efficient use of existing energy sources;
- Developing strategies to increase Virginia’s renewable energy economy and grow the entire energy industry in Virginia by retaining, expanding, and attracting businesses in the energy sector;
- Developing strategies to increase the international export of Virginia’s coal;
- Identifying opportunities to expand Virginia’s needed energy infrastructure and to increase the reliability of the Commonwealth’s existing energy infrastructure;
- Reviewing an analysis of any regulations proposed or promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel-fired electric generating units under § 111(d) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7411(d);
- Providing expertise and advice on other policy strategies deemed appropriate during the drafting of the Plan to grow the energy industry in the Commonwealth; and,
- Monitoring the implementation of the Plan, providing strategic guidance to ensure successful achievement of Plan goals, and reviewing the interim update of the Plan required to be presented by October 1, 2017.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 27th day of May, 2014.



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Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor

Attest:

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Secretary of the Commonwealth