



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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Virginia Moves Forward on Advanced Nuclear Deployment in Southwest Virginia

RICHMOND, VA— Virginia is moving forward with plans to bring one of the nation's first advanced nuclear reactors to Southwest Virginia, a key part of Governor Glenn Youngkin's strategy for Virginia's energy future. A \$100,000 grant from the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank (VCEIB) and a \$97,500 GO Virginia grant will support work to position the region to apply for private investment and federal funding to bring the technology to the region.

"Southwest Virginia has powered our Commonwealth for generations, and now we have the chance to invest in that legacy with the technologies of the future," **said Governor Glenn Youngkin**. "This investment will create jobs, attract new industries, and help build a foundation for long-term growth in a region that has, time and time again, played a critical role in Virginia's success."

With this funding, Wise County, UVA Wise, and the Virginia Innovative Nuclear Hub (VIN Hub) will lead a coordinated effort to prepare Southwest Virginia for advanced nuclear deployment. The LENOWISCO Planning District Commission will manage the initiative on behalf of Wise County, and VIN Hub will oversee technical planning and strategic coordination.

Project partners will produce a deployment roadmap that aligns regional assets with national priorities—identifying high-potential sites, outlining infrastructure needs, estimating long-term job creation and revenue, and establishing workforce and research partnerships through UVA Wise and beyond. The focus is on execution: turning readiness into action and preparing the region to apply for private investment and federal support.

"With investments in projects like this through our Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank, Virginia is delivering on its promise to build a reliable, affordable, and increasingly clean energy future—powered by innovation and ready to meet rising demand," **said Glenn Davis, Director of the Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy)**.

Advanced nuclear reactors—compact, factory-built systems designed for rapid deployment—offer 24/7, carbon-free power and enhanced grid reliability. Their deployment in Southwest Virginia represents a strategic opportunity to meet rising energy demand while supporting manufacturing, data centers, and research-driven industries. With strong infrastructure, a skilled workforce, and academic leadership from UVA Wise, Southwest Virginia is uniquely positioned to lead the next generation of clean energy deployment.

"This initiative will help bring real opportunity to the coalfields—high-quality jobs, modern infrastructure, and a seat at the table in Virginia's energy future," **said Terry Kilgore, Minority Leader, Virginia House of Delegates (R-45th District)**. "Advanced nuclear represents the next chapter in Southwest Virginia's

economic revitalization, and I'm proud to be a champion for a project that shows the nation what our region is capable of achieving."

The initiative also builds on previous clean energy efforts in the LENOWISCO region, including site readiness planning and supply chain assessments—reinforcing Southwest Virginia's growing role in the Commonwealth's clean energy future.

"The work we're doing in Wise County reflects Virginia's commitment to support our rural regions in the transition to advanced nuclear energy," **said Jeff Whitt, Executive Director, Virginia Innovative Nuclear Hub (VIN Hub).** "VIN Hub is proud to work alongside community, academic, and economic development leaders to shape an energy future rooted in innovation and resilience."

"Wise County continues to demonstrate that we're ready for investment, ready for innovation, and ready to help lead the next chapter of Virginia's energy economy," **said Mike Hatfield, Economic Development Director, Wise County.** "Projects like this are building a foundation for opportunity that will benefit our communities for decades to come."

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About the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank:

The Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank (VCEIB) is housed in the Virginia Department of Energy's State Energy Office and is tasked with accelerating the deployment of clean power generation and energy infrastructure across the commonwealth. VCEIB mobilizes public and private capital to address critical financing gaps in the clean power generation and infrastructure sectors, supporting the goals outlined in Virginia's All-American, All-of-the-Above Energy Plan.

About VIN Hub:

The Virginia Innovative Nuclear Hub (VIN Hub) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing Virginia's nuclear energy technologies through coordinated efforts between industry and academia. Establishing a nuclear hub in Virginia has been a priority for the Virginia nuclear industry and our universities. Its mission is to bring together Virginia's nuclear resources into highly collaborative teams, spanning multiple scientific, engineering, economic, and public policy disciplines, to serve as a world-leading nuclear research, engineering, and technology center, all within Virginia's footprint.

About LENOWISCO:

The LENOWISCO Planning District Commission supports the planning and implementation of community development, economic development, transportation, and public utility infrastructure initiatives across Lee, Wise, and Scott Counties and the City of Norton.

About GO Virginia:

GO Virginia is a bipartisan, business-led economic development initiative that is changing the way Virginia's diverse regions collaborate on economic and workforce development activities. GO Virginia supports programs to create more high-paying jobs through incentivized collaboration between business, education, and government to diversify and strengthen the economy in every region of the Commonwealth.

