



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

1100 Bank Street (8th Floor), Richmond, VA 23219
Office: (804) 692-3200 | TDD: (800) 828-1120

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Virginia Energy Releases Report on Nuclear Simulator Capabilities

*Report Highlights Growing Nuclear Training and Innovation
Capacity throughout the Commonwealth*

RICHMOND — The Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank (VCEIB)—housed within the Virginia Department of Energy’s State Energy Office—today released the [*Virginia Nuclear Simulator Capabilities Overview*](#), a new report outlining the Commonwealth’s growing portfolio of nuclear simulation facilities and their role in preparing Virginia’s workforce for current and next-generation energy technologies.

“Virginia is building the talent base needed to sustain our existing nuclear fleet while pursuing advanced energy technologies that will power our future,” **said Vince Maiden, Director of Virginia Energy.** “This report demonstrates the depth of the Commonwealth’s nuclear-training infrastructure and the partnerships that make Virginia a leading destination for advanced nuclear innovation, research, and workforce development.”

The overview highlights simulators supporting conventional nuclear operations, small modular reactors (SMRs), advanced fission reactors, fusion-energy applications, and naval nuclear propulsion. It describes assets at George Mason University, the University of Virginia’s College at Wise, Virginia Commonwealth University, the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, Dominion Energy facilities, and Naval Station Norfolk.

VCEIB-supported investments include NuScale Energy Exploration Centers at George Mason University and UVA Wise, upgrades to VCU’s Nuclear Reactor Simulator Laboratory, and the planned TerraPower Sodium Technology Operations Simulator in Arlington. Together, these resources expand opportunities for students, incumbent workers, researchers, industry partners, and communities across Virginia to engage with nuclear technologies in realistic control-room environments.

“Every dollar the Bank puts into simulation infrastructure is a dollar that de-risks Virginia for nuclear developers and operators,” **said Simon Glossop, Director of the VCEIB.** “When a company is deciding where to site a reactor or locate a workforce pipeline, Virginia's trained and ready workforce signals this is a state that's proactively investing in their success.”

The report notes that Virginia’s simulator ecosystem spans multiple technology classes. The two NuScale E2 Centers provide full-scale simulations of the NuScale VOYGR-12 SMR design; VCU’s platform supports generic pressurized-water-reactor training and future advanced-fission and fusion applications; and the planned Sodium simulator will provide experience with a sodium-cooled fast reactor and integrated thermal-energy storage. The state’s existing ecosystem also includes Dominion Energy’s plant-specific operator-training simulators and U.S. Navy nuclear-propulsion simulators in Hampton Roads.

The [Virginia Nuclear Simulator Capabilities Overview](#) also identifies future opportunities for collaboration among institutions, including shared training materials, workforce programs, public education, advanced-reactor research, and technology demonstrations. The report emphasizes that coordinated investments and partnerships can help students and trainees gain experience across multiple reactor platforms rather than a single technology.

About the VCEIB

The VCEIB invests in programs and infrastructure that advance clean-energy innovation, economic development, and workforce opportunities across the Commonwealth. Through strategic investments in projects such as nuclear simulation and training assets, the VCEIB supports Virginia’s preparation for emerging energy technologies while strengthening the workforce and partnerships needed to sustain a reliable, affordable, and secure energy future. For more information visit the [website](#).

Media Contact:

Fred Baker
Public Relations Manager
press@energy.virginia.gov
(804) 731-8462

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