

VIRGINIA DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCE (DER) TASK FORCE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 16, 2026

9:30 AM - 12:00PM

Auditorium, Main Richmond Library Branch

Meeting materials are available on <https://energy.virginia.gov/renewable-energy/DER-Task-Force.shtml>

Call to Order, Roll Call, Welcome & Introductions

Chair Chief Josephus Allmond called the inaugural meeting of the Virginia Distributed Energy Resources (DER) Task Force to order at 9:32 a.m. A quorum (13) was confirmed, and staff verified that the virtual meeting platform was operating properly. The Chair reviewed procedures for virtual participation and public comment.

Members present: Chief Allmond, Emily Orvis, Carrie Hearne, Richard Caperton, Tony Smith, Dawn Oleksy, Ashish Kapoor, Angela Navarro, Bill Murray, Joe Lerch, Deputy Secretary Dahlman, Delegate Helmer, Senator VanValkenburg

Members absent: Lieutenant Governor Ghazala Hashmi, John Farmer, Delegate Richard (Rip) Sullivan

Task Force members introduced themselves and summarized their backgrounds and experience related to distributed energy resources. Members represented a broad range of perspectives, including utilities, local government, renewable energy development, environmental organizations, and state legislators.

Task Force Overview and Mandate

The Chair reviewed the legislative charge establishing the Task Force and outlined its purpose of evaluating distributed energy resources in Virginia and developing recommendations to support reliable, affordable, resilient, and customer-focused deployment of DERs.

The Chair reviewed the DER Task Force membership and support, including contracted support from Deloitte and EPDI. The Chair also mentioned meeting process and logistics, including meeting schedule, quorum requirement, voting, FOIA, and the three-member rule (sunshine law).

Current State of Distributed Energy Resources in Virginia

Deputy Energy Officer, Louise White, provided an overview of the current DER landscape in the Commonwealth. The presentation highlighted key trends and opportunities as well as summarized existing distributed energy resource capacity, such as BTM solar and storage, in Virginia. Deputy Louise also walked through relevant legislation passed in Virginia, highlighting bills from 2020, 2025, and 2026, and challenges.

Members discussed both the opportunities and challenges associated with integrating greater levels of distributed resources while maintaining electric system reliability.

DER Markets and VPP Strategy, Road Map, Policy Framework, and Discussion

Ted Ko of the Energy Policy Design Institute (EPDI) delivered a presentation using the framework of their Virtual Power Plant Convergence Project to propose a regulatory roadmap for the DER Task Force. During the presentation, Ted focused on distributed energy resources as flexible grid assets and walked through how to outline regulatory pathways to support Virtual Power Plant (VPP) development. The presentation reviewed:

- An overview of the VPP types considered in this framework (Utility Capacity Program, Aggregator Retail, Utility Direct Control, Wholesale Market (Order 2222), Data center capacity).
- An overview of how different grid services can be offered by different technologies and VPP types.
- An overview of Policy Readiness Levels (PRLs), which are defined as regulatory milestones of development for each policy topic.

During the presentation, Task Force members engaged in an extensive discussion regarding the applicability of these approaches in Virginia. Key discussion topics included:

- Appropriate valuation of distributed energy resources and the services they provide (ex. NEM vs ancillary services vs capacity).
- Data access, interoperability, and communications requirements.
- Distribution system planning and hosting capacity.
- Coordination between state policy, utility programs, PJM markets, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requirements.
- Customer participation, incentives, and consumer protections.
- Equity considerations and ensuring broad customer access to DER programs.
- The importance of clearly defining terminology, including distinctions between net metering, compensation for exported energy, and compensation for specific grid services.

Work Plan and Stakeholder Engagement

Deputy White presented the proposed work plan for the Task Force. She highlighted four phases of work, with actions to be taken by staff and contracted support in between Task Force meetings.

Deputy White proposed stakeholder engagement strategies, including listening sessions with industry representatives, utilities, consumer advocates, environmental organizations, local governments, technology providers, and other interested parties to ensure recommendations reflect a broad range of perspectives. She also listed key research questions to be addressed through this workplan. She highlighted that the on-going Virginia Energy Plan process can inform the DER Task Force and vice versa.

Members discussed topics for inclusion in the workplan, including:

- DER valuation and compensation.
- DER Interconnection processes.
- Distribution planning.
- Customer participation and financing.
- Utility business models.
- Consumer protections.
- Lessons learned from other states.

Public Comment

Two members of the public provided comments. The comments mentioned 1) including the consideration of emissions in addition to other concerns and 2) taking customer benefits into account to support DER deployment and ensuring we are careful about definitions.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the Distributed Energy Resources Task Force is scheduled for **August 4, 2026 from 2:00PM to 5:00PM.**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Task Force members, presenters, staff, and members of the public for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53AM.