

Distributed Energy Resources Task Force

Summary of Participative Planning Process

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the process by which the Commonwealth of Virginia is convening stakeholders to build consensus and support for Distributed Energy Resources (DER) policy change, as described in Senate Bill (SB) 223 / House Bill (HB) 285.¹

Background

Virginia's DER Task Force was created by SB 223 / HB 285 and enacted as Chapter 997 of the 2026 Acts of Assembly (effective July 1, 2026). Its statutory purpose is to develop a comprehensive strategy to advance energy affordability and the Commonwealth's transition toward integrated distributed energy resource markets and to support the Commonwealth's compliance with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order No. 2222.

DER Task Force Members

The Governor has assembled an advisory commission ("Task Force") to lead a participative planning process to build consensus and support for DER policy change. Task Force members have been selected from across the electric power sector, representing public, private, and nonprofit perspectives:

- **Chief Josephus Allmond**, Chief Energy Officer
- **Delegate Richard Sullivan**, 6th District of Virginia
- **Delegate Dan Helmer**, 10th District of Virginia
- **Senator Schuyler VanValkenburg**, 16th District of Virginia
- **Deputy Secretary Kristin Dahlman**, Office of Virginia Secretary of Commerce and Trade (Designee of Secretary Carrie Chenery)
- **Carrie Hearne**, Director of Energy Commission of Virginia (Designee of Senator Scott Surovell)
- **Emily Orvis**, Vice President of Energy Markets, Voltus Inc.
- **John Farmer**, Energy Regulatory Attorney, Virginia Office of the Attorneys General
- **Lt. Governor Ghazala Hashmi**, Office of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia
- **Ashish Kapoor**, Senior Energy and Climate Advisor, Piedmont Environmental Council
- **Richard Caperton**, VP of Public Policy, SPAN
- **Tony Smith**, Chair and Co-Founder, Virginia Distributed Solar Alliance
- **Dawn Oleksy**, Clean Energy Manager, City of Richmond
- **Joe Lerch**, Director of Local Government Policy, Virginia Association of Counties
- **Angela Navarro**, President, Align Energy Advisors

¹ See SB 223/HB 285 *subdivision 8 of § 3*

- **Bill Murray**, Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs & Communications, Dominion Energy

The Task Force will review existing Virginia and other state laws, regulations, and practices; aggregate perspectives from national experts on comprehensive DER strategies; and make recommendations to the State Corporation Commission (SCC) on regulatory, tariff, coordination, policy, or other actions to help implement DERs, among other specified activities in §3 of SB 223/HB 285.

Task Force Meetings and Listening Sessions

The Task Force will hold four meetings and facilitate additional sessions to surface public comments, answer questions, and address compliance and implementation challenges. Listening sessions will be tailored for both industry and public audiences, respectively, and are meant to elicit real-world feedback to inform and validate the Task Force's final recommendations.

All Task Force Meetings are open to the public and published agendas and draft recommendations are to be made available for public comment.

Other key dates are as follows:

Milestone	Date	Participants
DER Task Force Meeting 1	July 16	• Task Force members • Public
DER Task Force Meeting 2	August 4	• Task Force members • Public
Meeting with State Corporation Commission (SCC)	July 23	• DER Task Force Staff & Consulting Support • SCC legal & technical leadership
Meeting with electric utilities	July 28	• DER Task Force Staff & Consulting Support • Dominion Energy • Appalachian Power • Northern VA Electric Cooperative • Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
Public input webinar	TBD	• DER Task Force Staff & Consulting Support • Task Force Members (optional) • Public
In-person industry listening session	August 27	• DER Task Force Staff & Consulting Support • DER aggregators, the Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association, and others TBD (e.g., developers, technology vendors, etc.)
DER Task Force Meeting 3	Sept. 15	• Task Force members • Public

Meeting with SCC		• DER Task Force Staff & Consulting Support • SCC staff
Meeting with VA Utilities		• DER Task Force Staff & Consulting Support • Utility staff
<i>Interim report due to General Assembly (GA)</i>	October 1	N/A
DER Task Force Meeting 4	October 13	• Task Force members • Public
<i>Final report due to GA</i>	November 1	N/A

The Task Force will publish a final report describing its findings and recommendations, including a roadmap for DER aggregation under FERC Order No. 2222, by November 1, 2026. The report will integrate feedback from the engagements described above as well as input from previous in-person regional meetings, listening sessions, and other engagement channels that informed the Virginia Energy Plan.