

## SUMMARY OF THE VIRGINIA CLEAN ECONOMY ACT (VCEA) AND OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY BILLS

After an extremely busy session, the Virginia General Assembly adjourned its 2020 legislative session on March 12<sup>th</sup>. The 2020 legislative session was a blockbuster year for clean energy legislation with the passage of several important bills, including the **Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA)**. The overall goal of the VCEA is to reduce Virginia’s carbon emissions to zero by 2045, and the VCEA includes several groundbreaking provisions that are expected to spur and accelerate the growth of solar and onshore wind projects in Virginia and offshore wind projects off the coast of Virginia.

The following provides a general summary of key VCEA provisions and other renewable energy bills passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2020. Note that the VCEA and other bills remain subject to the Governor’s approval (and possible amendment). Also, several stand-alone renewable energy bills were passed this session and are expected to be conformed to the VCEA. As used below, “**Dominion**” means Virginia Electric and Power Company; “**APCo**” means Appalachian Power Company; and “**Commission**” means the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

### VIRGINIA CLEAN ECONOMY ACT (SB 851 / HB 1526)

#### **Solar and Wind Public Interest Declarations**

§ 56-585.1 A 6

Increases the amount of new utility-owned and utility-operated solar or onshore wind generating facilities that are in the public interest from 5,000 MWs to **16,100 MWs**, including rooftop solar installations (with a capacity of not less than 50 kW) with an aggregate capacity of **100 MWs** (previously 50 MWs), together with offshore wind facilities with an aggregate capacity of not more than **3,000 MWs** (previously 16 MWs).\*

\* Compare § 56-585.1:11 B.

#### **Off-Shore Wind**

§ 56-585.1:11 B

Declares that, prior to **December 31, 2034**, the construction or purchase by a public utility of one or more offshore wind generation facilities located off Virginia’s Atlantic shoreline, or in federal waters and interconnected directly into Virginia, with an aggregate capacity of **5,200 MWs** is in the public interest, provided that no customers of the utility shall be responsible for costs of any such facility in a proportion greater than the utility’s share of the facility.\*

\* Compare § 56-585.1 A 6.

#### **Retirement of Carbon Emitting Electric Generating Facilities**

§ 56-585.5

Establishes a schedule by which Dominion and APCo are required to retire carbon-emitting electric generating units located in Virginia.

By **December 31, 2024**:

- > Dominion and APCo shall retire **all generating units primarily fueled by oil with a rated capacity more than 500 MWs** and **all coal-fired generating units in Virginia**, except for any coal-fired electric generating units (i) jointly owned with an electric cooperative; or (ii) owned and operated by Dominion in the coalfield region of Virginia that co-fire with biomass.

By **December 31, 2028**:

- > Dominion and APCo shall retire **all biomass-fired electric generating units** that do not co-fire with coal.

By **December 31, 2045**:

- > Dominion and APCo shall retire **all other electric generating units located in Virginia that emit carbon as a by-product of combusting fuel to generate electricity.**

## VIRGINIA CLEAN ECONOMY ACT (SB 851 / HB 1526)

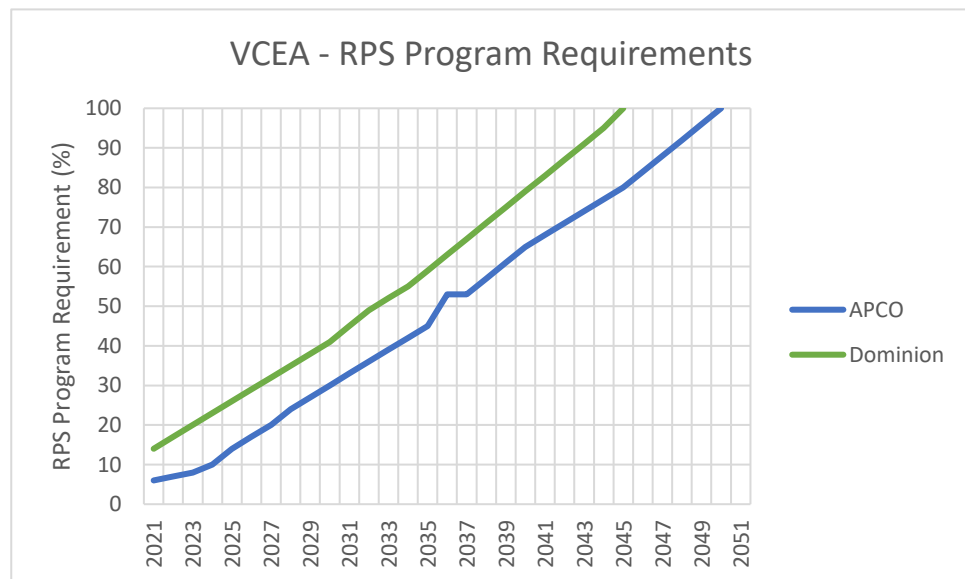
Dominion or APCo may petition the Commission for relief from such requirements on the basis that the requirement would threaten the reliability or security of electric service to customers.

### Mandatory RPS Program

§ 56-585.5 C  
§ 56-585.5 D

Establishes a mandatory renewable energy portfolio standard program (RPS Program) with annual goals for the sale of renewable energy to retail customers in the utility's service territory. To comply with the RPS Program, Dominion and APCo must procure and retire renewable energy certificates (RECs) originating from RPS eligible sources.

The RPS Program requirements are a percentage of the total electric energy sold in the previous calendar year. For APCo, in 2021, the RPS Program requirement starts at 6% and increases to **100% in 2050**. For Dominion, in 2021, the RPS Program requirement starts at 14% and increases to **100% in 2045**. The following chart reflects the RPS Program requirements for each of APCo and Dominion by year:



#### From 2021 to 2024:

Dominion and APCo may use RECs from any renewable energy facility (as defined in § 56-576) located in Virginia or physically located within the PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) region.

However, at no time may Dominion or APCo use RECs from (i) renewable thermal energy; (ii) renewable thermal energy equivalent; (iii) biomass-fired facilities that are outside Virginia; or (iv) biomass-fired facilities operating in Virginia as of January 1, 2020, that supply 10% or more of their annual net electrical generation to the electric grid or more than 15% of their annual total useful energy to any entity other than the manufacturing facility to which the generating source is interconnected.

#### In 2025 and all years afterward:

Dominion and APCo may only use RECs from **RPS eligible sources** for compliance with the RPS Program.

## VIRGINIA CLEAN ECONOMY ACT (SB 851 / HB 1526)

### **Mandatory RPS Program (cont.)**

To qualify as **RPS eligible sources**, such sources must be:

- (a) *Solar and Wind*. Electric-generating resources that generate electric energy derived from **solar or wind** located in Virginia or off Virginia's Atlantic shoreline or in federal waters and interconnected directly into Virginia or physically located within the PJM region;
- (b) *Hydro (Utility-Owned or -Contracted)*. **Falling water resources** located in Virginia or physically located within the PJM region that were in operation as of January 1, 2020 that are owned by Dominion or APCo or for which Dominion or APCo has entered into a contract prior to January 1, 2020 to purchase energy, capacity and renewable attributes from such falling water resources;
- (c) *Hydro (Non-Utility-Owned)*. **Non-utility-owned resources from falling water** that (1) are less than 65 MWs, (2) began commercial operation after December 31, 1979 or (3) added incremental generation representing greater than 50% of the original nameplate capacity after December 31, 1979, provided such resources are located in Virginia or physically located within the PJM region;
- (d) *Waste-to-Energy / Landfill Gas*. **Waste-to-energy or landfill gas-fired generating resources** located in Virginia and in operation as of January 1, 2020, provided that such resources do not use waste heat from fossil fuel combustion or forest or woody biomass as fuel; or
- (e) *Biomass*. **Biomass-fired facilities** in operation in Virginia as of January 1, 2020, that supply no more than 10% of their annual net electrical generation to the electric grid or no more than 15% of their annual total useful energy to any entity other than the manufacturing facility to which the generating source is interconnected.

Dominion shall meet **1% of the RPS Program** requirements in any given compliance year with solar, wind, or anaerobic digestion resources of **1 MW or less located in Virginia** (with not more than 3,000 kW at any single location or at contiguous locations owned by the same entity or affiliated entities) and, to the extent that low-income qualifying projects are available, then no less than 25% of such 1% shall be composed of low-income qualifying projects.

Beginning with year 2025 and thereafter, at least **75% of all RECs** used by Dominion in a compliance period shall come from **RPS eligible resources located in Virginia**.

#### Deficiency Payment

If, in any year, Dominion or APCo is unable to meet the compliance obligation of the RPS Program requirements or if the cost of RECs necessary to comply with RPS Program requirements exceeds \$45 per MWh, such supplier shall be obligated to make a deficiency payment equal to **\$45 per MWh for the year of noncompliance**, except that the deficiency payment for any shortfall in procuring RECs for solar, wind, or anaerobic digesters located in Virginia shall be **\$75 per MWh for resources 1 MW or less**.

The amount of any deficiency payment shall increase by 1% annually after 2021.

## VIRGINIA CLEAN ECONOMY ACT (SB 851 / HB 1526)

### APCo - Renewable Energy Targets

§ 56-585.5 D 1

APCo shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of **600 MWs of solar or onshore wind generating capacity as follows.**

By **December 31, 2023:**

- > APCo shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of **at least 200 MWs of generating capacity in Virginia using solar or onshore wind,** and approximately **35% of such generating capacity shall be from such facilities owned by third parties,** with the remainder being from construction or acquisition by APCo.

By **December 31, 2027:**

- > APCo shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of **at least 200 MWs of additional generating capacity located in Virginia using solar or onshore wind,** and approximately **35% shall be from such facilities owned by third parties,** with the remainder being from construction or acquisition by APCo.

By **December 31, 2030:**

- > APCo shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of **at least 200 MWs of additional generating capacity located in Virginia using solar or onshore wind,** and approximately **35% shall be from such facilities owned by third parties,** with the remainder being from construction or acquisition by APCo.

### Dominion - Renewable Energy Targets

§ 56-585.5 D 2

By **December 31, 2035:**

- > Dominion shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to:
  - o *Solar and Onshore Wind:* Construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of, **16,100 MWs of generating capacity located in Virginia from solar or onshore wind,** which shall include:
    - **1,100 MWs of solar capacity** (not to exceed 3 MWs per individual project); and
    - **35% of such generating capacity from solar facilities owned by persons other than Dominion** (including utility affiliates and deregulated affiliates)
  - o *Offshore Wind:* Construct or purchase one or more offshore wind generation facilities located off Virginia's Atlantic shoreline or in federal waters and interconnected directly into Virginia with an **aggregate capacity of up to 5,200 MWs.**
- > At least 200 MWs (of the 16,100 MWs) shall be placed on previously developed project sites.

By **December 31, 2024:**

- > Dominion shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of **at least 3,000 MWs of generating capacity located in Virginia from solar or onshore wind,** and **35% of such generating capacity shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity and environmental attributes owned by persons other than Dominion,** with the remainder being from construction or acquisition by Dominion.

## VIRGINIA CLEAN ECONOMY ACT (SB 851 / HB 1526)

### **Dominion - Renewable Energy Targets (cont.)**

By **December 31, 2027:**

- > Dominion shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of **at least 3,000 MWs of generating capacity located in Virginia from solar or onshore wind**, and approximately **35% of such generating capacity shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity and environmental attributes owned by persons other than Dominion**, with the remain being from construction or acquisition by Dominion.

By **December 31, 2030:**

- > Dominion shall petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of **at least 4,000 MWs of generating capacity located in Virginia from solar or onshore wind**, and **35% of such generating capacity shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity and environmental attributes owned by persons other than Dominion**, with the remainder being from construction or acquisition by Dominion.

By **December 31, 2035:**

- > Dominion shall petition the Commission for approvals to construct, acquire, or enter into agreements to purchase the energy, capacity, and environmental attributes of **at least 6,100 MWs of generating capacity located in Virginia from solar or onshore wind**, and **35% of such generating capacity shall be from the purchase of energy, capacity and environmental attributes owned by persons other than Dominion**, with the remainder being from construction or acquisition by Dominion.

### **Solar and Wind Resources RFPs**

§ 56-585.5 D 3

Requires each of Dominion and APCo, at least once every year, to conduct a request for proposals for new solar and wind resources. Such requests shall quantify and describe the utility's need for energy, capacity, or renewable energy certificates. The requests for proposals shall be publicly announced and made available for public review on the utility's website at least 45 days prior to the closing of such request for proposals.

### **Energy Storage Resources**

§ 56-585.5 E

Requires Dominion and APCo to petition the Commission for necessary approvals to construct or acquire new, utility-owned energy storage resources.

By **December 31, 2035:**

- > APCo shall petition the Commission for approval to construct or acquire **400 MWs** of energy storage capacity.
- > Dominion shall petition the Commission for approval to construct or acquire **2,700 MWs** of energy storage capacity.

No single energy storage project shall exceed 500 MWs in size, except that Dominion may procure a single energy storage project up to 800 MWs.

After July 1, 2020, at least **35% of energy storage facilities** placed in service shall be (i) purchased by the utility from a party other than the public utility; or (ii) owned by a party other than a public utility, with the capacity from such facilities sold to the public utility.

## VIRGINIA CLEAN ECONOMY ACT (SB 851 / HB 1526)

### Energy Storage Resources (cont.)

By January 1, 2021, the Commission shall adopt regulations to achieve deployment of energy storage, including regulations that set interim targets and update existing utility planning and procurement rules. The regulations shall include programs and mechanisms to deploy energy storage, including competitive solicitations, behind-the-meter incentives, non-wires alternatives programs, and peak demand reduction programs.

### Net-Metering § 56-594

Amends the net metering program by increasing the facility size limitation (i) for residential customers, **from 20 kW to 25 kW**; and (ii) for nonresidential customers, **from 1 MW to 3 MW**.

In addition to the electrical generating facility size limitation identified above, increases capacity of any generating facility installed after July 1, 2020 to **100% for APCo** and **150% for Dominion** of the expected annual energy consumption (or an annualized calculation of billing history if 12 months of billing history is not available).

Increases the aggregate eligibility of the net metering standard contract or tariff **from 1% to 6%** of the electric distribution company's adjusted Virginia peak-load forecast for the previous year, of which **5% is available to all customers** and **1% is available only to low-income customers**.

The Commission shall conduct a net energy metering proceeding on and after the earlier of (i) 2024 for APCo or 2025 for Dominion; or (ii) when the aggregate rated generating capacity owned and operated by eligible customer-generators, eligible agricultural customer-generators, and small agricultural generators in Virginia reaches 3% of APCo's or Dominion's peak-load forecast for the previous year.

### Third Party Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)

*(Chapters 358 and 382 of the Acts of Assembly of 2013, as amended by Chapter 803 of the Acts of Assembly of 2017)*

Increases the aggregate capacity of all generation facilities that are subject to Dominion's or APCo's third party power purchase agreement (PPA) pilot programs.

In Dominion's certificated service territory:

- > Increases program capacity from 50 MWs to:
  - o **500 MWs** for Virginia jurisdictional customers; and
  - o **500 MWs** for Virginia nonjurisdictional customers.

In APCo's certificated service territory:

- > Increases program capacity **from 7 MWs to 40 MWs**.
- > Removes the restriction that eligible customer-generators must be nonprofit, private institutions of higher education.

Increases facility size limitation **from 1 MW to 3 MW**.

Increases the limitation on the aggregated capacity of such facilities **from 1% to 6%** of Dominion's or APCo's adjusted Virginia peak-load forecast for the previous year that is available to eligible customer-generators pursuant to § 56-594.

Adds that the minimum size limitation of 50 kW does not apply to low-income utility customers.

## VIRGINIA CLEAN ECONOMY ACT (SB 851 / HB 1526)

### **Energy Efficiency Programs**

§ 56-596.2

Establishes an energy efficiency standard under which Dominion and APCo are required to achieve incremental annual energy efficiency savings.

For APCo:

- > Beginning in 2022, the annual energy savings target is at least 0.5% of APCo's average annual energy jurisdictional retail sales in 2019 (base year) and increases each year to 2% in 2025.

For Dominion:

- > Beginning in 2022, the annual energy savings target is at least 1.25% of Dominion's average annual energy jurisdictional retail sales in 2019 (base year) and increases each year to 5% in 2025.

§ 56-585.1.A.5.c

For 2026 to 2028, and for every successive 3-year period thereafter, the Commission is to establish new energy efficiency savings targets.

Establishes that the Commission shall not (unless there is a threat to reliability or electric service security) approve construction of any new utility-owned generating facilities that emit carbon unless the utility has already met its energy savings goals, and the Commission finds that the supply-side resources are more cost-effective than demand-side or energy storage resources.

## OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY BILLS (2020 SESSION)

### **Distributed Renewable Energy "Solar Freedom" (SB 710/HB 572)**

§§ 56-594 and 67-102;  
§ 56-585.1:11  
(Chapters 358 and 382 of the Acts of Assembly of 2013, as amended by Chapter 803 of the Acts of Assembly of 2017)

Promotes the establishment of distributed renewable solar and other renewable energy.

The bill, among other things:

- (i) increases from 1% to **6%** the systemwide cap on the total amount of renewable energy that can be net metered in a utility's service territory, **5% of which is available to all customers and 1% of which is available only to low-income utility customers;**
- (ii) authorizes third-party power purchase agreements for all customers of Dominion and APCo and raises the cap to **500 MWs for Virginia jurisdictional customers and 500 MWs for Virginia nonjurisdictional customers, and 40 MWs for APCO customers;**
- (iii) raises the cap for net-metered residential generation facilities from 20 kW to **25 kW** and nonresidential generation facilities from 1 MW to **3 MW**; and
- (iv) removes the ability of APCo to assess standby charges for any residential eligible customer-generator or agricultural customer-generator.

Amends the Commonwealth Energy Policy to include provisions supporting the distributed generation of renewable electricity.

### **Clean Economy and Community Flood Preparedness Act (HB 981/SB 1027)**

§§ 10.1-603.24 & 10.1-603.25,  
10.1-1329 – 10.1331

Authorizes the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to establish, implement, and manage an auction program to sell allowances into a market-based trading program consistent with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program. The Director is to seek to sell 100% of all allowances issued each year, unless doing so will have a negative impact on the value of allowances or result in a net loss of consumer benefit or is otherwise inconsistent with the RGGI program.

## OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY BILLS (2020 SESSION)

### Revenue Share for Solar Energy Projects (SB 762/HB 1131)

§ 58.1-2636 &  
§ 58.1-3660

Establishes that any locality may by ordinance assess a revenue share of up to **\$1,400 per MW (AC) of the nameplate capacity of any solar photovoltaic (electric energy) project.**

“Solar photovoltaic (electric energy) project” excludes any project:

- (i) described in § 56-594, 56-594.01, or 56-594.2 or Chapters 358 and 382 of the Acts of Assembly of 2013 (as amended);
- (ii) of 20 MWs or less, for which an initial interconnection request form has been filed with an electric utility or a regional transmission organization on or before December 31, 2018; or
- (iii) of 5 MWs or less.

If a locality adopts an energy revenue share ordinance, the exemption for solar photovoltaic (electric energy) projects greater than 5 MWs shall be 100%.

If a locality continues to assess machinery and tools tax, the exemption for solar photovoltaic (electric energy) projects greater than 5 MWs, for which an initial interconnection request form has been filed with an electric utility or a regional transmission organization, shall be 80% when an application has been filed with the locality prior to July 1, 2030.

The term “*application has been filed with the locality*” means an applicant has filed an application for a zoning confirmation from the locality for a by-right use, or has filed an application for land use approval under the locality’s zoning ordinance to include an application for a conditional use permit, special use permit, special exemption, or other application as set out in the locality’s zoning ordinance.

No revenue share shall retroactively apply to any solar photovoltaic (electric energy) project for which an application was filed with the locality on or before July 1, 2020, unless:

- (i) the locality and the applicant or owner agree to revise any existing voluntary payment agreement, or enter into any new voluntary payment agreement, under which the applicant or owner agree to voluntarily waive a portion of the exemption from machinery and tool tax as provided in § 58.1-3660; and
- (ii) the locality and the applicant or owner agree to substitute the amount of such voluntary payment for a similar amount of a solar energy revenue share authorized by § 58.1-2636.

Nothing shall preclude an applicant or owner of a project previously approved by a locality from entering into a written agreement to submit such project to a local ordinance that requires a revenue share to be paid as authorized by § 58.1-2636.

### Local Tax Exemption; Solar Energy Equipment (HB 1434/SB 763)

§ 58.1-3660

Amends the local property tax exemption for certain solar photovoltaic (electric energy) projects from an 80% exemption for the life of the project to a step-down of:

- > **80% exemption in the first 5 years;**
- > **70% exemption in the second 5 years;** and
- > **60% exemption for all remaining years in service.**

The change applies to any solar photovoltaic project described in clauses (iii) and (v) of § 58.1-3660 C for which an initial interconnection request form has been filed with an electric utility or a regional transmission organization on or after January 1, 2019.

Extends the sunset date after which new solar photovoltaic (electric energy) projects may not qualify for the exemption from January 1, 2024 to **July 1, 2030**, and provides that an “application has been filed with the locality” means that the application must be filed for the project by such date.



## OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY BILLS (2020 SESSION)

<p><b>Solar Energy and Recycling Equipment</b> (SB 1039)</p> <p>§ 58.1-3661</p>	<p>Establishes that, for purposes of the real property tax exemption for certified solar energy and recycling equipment, the exemption shall be retroactive to the date of installation if the taxpayer obtains certification within one year of installation.</p>
<p><b>Property Taxes; Electric Suppliers Utilizing Wind Turbines</b> (HB 1327)</p> <p>§ 58.1-2606</p>	<p>Establishes that, for a locality that imposes property taxes on generating equipment of electric suppliers utilizing wind turbines that have filed an initial interconnection request form with an electric utility or a regional transmission organization on or before July 1, 2020, such equipment may be taxed by the locality at a rate that exceeds the real estate rate by up to \$0.20 per \$100 of assessed value.</p> <p>For all other projects, and under current law, the tax may exceed the real estate rate but cannot exceed the general personal property tax rate in the locality.</p>
<p><b>Green Job Creation Tax Credit</b> (HB 408)</p> <p>§ 58.1-439.12:05</p>	<p>Extends the sunset date of the green job creation tax credit from January 1, 2021 to January 1, 2025.</p>
<p><b>Public Utilities; Energy Storage Capacity in the Commonwealth</b> (SB 632)</p> <p>§§ 56-585.1:4 F &amp; G; § 56-598</p> <p><b>Shared Solar Programs</b> (SB 629/HB 1634)</p> <p>§ 56-594.3</p>	<p>Provides that it is the objective of the General Assembly that <b>2,700 MWs of aggregate energy storage capacity</b> be placed into service on or before <b>July 1, 2030</b>.</p> <p>Provides that, prior to <b>January 1, 2030</b>,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the construction by a public utility of one or more energy storage facilities located in Virginia, having in the aggregate a rated capacity not exceeding <b>2,700 MWs</b>, is in the public interest; or</li> <li>(ii) the purchase by a public utility of such facilities owned by persons other than a public utility or the capacity from such facilities is in the public interest.</li> </ul> <p>At least 65% of energy storage capacity placed in service on or after July 1, 2020, located in Virginia and found to be in the public interest shall be from the purchase by a public utility of energy storage facilities owned by persons other than a public utility or the capacity from such facilities. Such purchases shall be subject to competitive procurement, provided that a public utility may select energy storage facilities without regard to whether such selection satisfies price criteria based on certain circumstances.</p> <p>Further, it provides that an integrated resource plan (IRP) should include recommended plans for utilizing energy storage facilities to meet forecasted demand and to assure adequate and sufficient reliability of service.</p> <p>Provides that the Commission shall establish by regulation (by January 1, 2021) a program that affords Dominion customers the opportunity to participate in shared solar programs. The Commission shall approve a shared solar facility program of <b>150 MWs</b> with a minimum requirement of 30% low-income customers. The Commission shall approve an <b>additional 50 MWs</b> upon determining that at least 45 MWs has been subscribed to by low-income customers.</p>

## OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY BILLS (2020 SESSION)

**Special Exemption  
for Solar  
Photovoltaic  
Projects**  
(HB 655/SB 870)

§ 15.2-2288.8

Authorizes a locality to include reasonable regulations and provisions in its zoning ordinance for a special exception for any solar photovoltaic (electric energy) project.

Authorizes the governing body of such locality to grant a condition that includes (i) dedication of real property of substantial value; or (ii) substantial cash payments for or construction of substantial public improvements, the need for which is not generated solely by the granting of a conditional use permit, so long as such proffered conditions are reasonably related to the project.

**Comprehensive  
Plan; Solar  
Facilities Review**  
(HB 657)

§ 15.2-2232

Exempts a solar facility from the requirement that it be reviewed for substantial accord with a locality's comprehensive plan, if the locality waives such requirement.

**Solar Energy  
Facilities;  
Definitions, Siting  
Agreement with  
Host Locality**  
(HB 1675)

§ 15.2-2316.6 –  
15.2-2316.9

Provides that any applicant for a solar facility (as defined in § 15.2-2316.6) in an opportunity zone give the host locality written notice of the applicant's intent to locate a solar facility in such locality and request a meeting. The applicant is to meet and negotiate a siting agreement with such locality. The siting agreement may include terms and conditions, including:

- (i) mitigation of any impacts of such solar facility;
- (ii) financial compensation to the host locality to address various capital needs; or
- (iii) assistance by the applicant in the deployment of broadband.

The bill does not apply to any solar facility that has received zoning and site plan approval (preliminary or otherwise) from the host locality on or before January 1, 2020.

**Solar Energy  
Projects; National  
Standards**  
(HB 656/SB 875)

§ 15.2-2286 A 13

Authorizes a locality to include in its zoning ordinance provisions to incorporate generally accepted national standards for the use of solar panels and battery technologies for solar photovoltaic (electric energy) projects.

**Electric Utilities;  
Right to Shop**  
(HB 868)

§ 56-577

Authorizes individual retail customers of electric energy (regardless of customer class) to purchase electric energy provided 100% from renewable energy from any licensed competitive supplier of electric energy, including any incumbent electric utility.

Also, provides that a cooperative utility customer eligible to take service under a tariff for electric energy provided 100% from renewable energy is prohibited from purchasing electric energy provided 100% from renewable energy from a licensed supplier, except such customer is authorized to continue purchasing renewable energy pursuant to the terms of a power purchase agreement in effect on the date the cooperative serving it filed with the Commission such tariff for electric energy provided 100% from renewable energy for the duration of such agreement.

**Virginia  
Energy Plan;  
Commonwealth  
Energy Policy**  
(SB 94/HB 714)

Provides that the Commonwealth Energy Policy shall include the following:

- (i) ensure the adequate supply of natural gas necessary to ensure the reliability of the electricity supply and the needs of businesses during the transition to renewable energy;
- (ii) establish greenhouse gas emissions reduction standards across all sectors of Virginia's economy that target net-zero emissions of carbon by 2045;

## OTHER RENEWABLE ENERGY BILLS (2020 SESSION)

### **Virginia Energy Plan; Commonwealth Energy Policy (cont.)**

§§ 67-100, 67-101, 67-102, and 67-201

- (iii) enact mandatory clean energy standards and overall strategies for reaching net-zero carbon in the electric power sector by 2040;
- (iv) equitably incorporate requirements for technical, policy, and economic analyses and assessments that recognize the unique attributes of different energy resources and delivery systems to identify pathways to net-zero carbon that maximize Virginia's energy reliability and resilience, economic development, and jobs; and
- (v) minimize the negative impacts of climate change and the energy transition on economically disadvantaged or minority communities and prioritize investment in these areas.

The measure also requires that the Virginia Energy Plan identify actions consistent with the goals of achieving a net-zero carbon economy for all sectors by 2045 and include an inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions for the 4 years preceding the issuance of the Plan.

### **Clean Energy Projects (HB 654)**

§ 15.2-958.3

Amends the Virginia Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) enabling legislation to authorize the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) to sponsor a statewide clean energy financing program. DMME is to engage a private entity through a competitive selection process to develop and administer the program.

For more information about the VCEA or any of the renewable energy bills, please contact **Brad Nowak** or **Bob Riley**, co-Chairs of Williams Mullen's Solar and Wind Energy Practice Groups, or **Patrick Cushing**, Vice Chair, Williams Mullen's Government Relations Practice Group. To join our mailing list, please email [solar@williamsmullen.com](mailto:solar@williamsmullen.com).



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