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Virginia Department of Energy Director Vince Maiden (left) and NASA Langley Research Center Deputy Director Allen Kilgore sign a partnership agreement to incorporate weather and climate data into Virginia's energy planning and modeling.

Virginia Energy and NASA Langley Partner to Strengthen Energy Planning

RICHMOND – The Virginia Department of Energy and NASA Langley Research Center signed an agreement last week that will lead to the integration of weather and climate data into Virginia's energy planning and modeling, strengthening the state's ability to assess how changing conditions affect its electricity system.

The work will focus on preparedness through understanding where Virginia's electricity system may face stress and using that knowledge to inform better decisions. It will examine

how extreme weather and variations in sunlight, wind and temperature affect electricity demand, renewable generation and system reliability. Those findings will support resilience studies, assessments of whether electricity resources can meet demand, and long-term energy planning. Virginia Energy Director Vince Maiden and NASA Langley Deputy Director Allen Kilgore marked the collaboration with a ceremonial agreement signing.

“Sound energy planning depends on models that reflect real-world conditions,” **said Vince Maiden, Director, Virginia Department of Energy**. “This collaboration will help us better understand how weather affects electricity supply and demand, identify vulnerabilities, and weigh resource tradeoffs with greater confidence.”

The collaboration supports Governor Spanberger’s 2026 Virginia Energy Plan and its vision for affordable, reliable, and clean local energy that works for every community. The plan identifies multiple pathways to meet rising demand and emphasizes rigorous analysis and flexibility as technologies, markets and costs evolve.

By helping Virginia Energy test assumptions and compare how different resource choices perform across a range of weather conditions, the work will give decision-makers a stronger foundation for weighing cost, reliability and long-term needs. The goal is planning that supports dependable service and more affordable and predictable power bills for Virginia’s families and businesses.

“NASA Langley relishes the opportunity to put our unique science data into the hands of those who want to improve people’s lives,” **said Allen Kilgore, Deputy Director, NASA Langley Research Center.** “This collaboration with Virginia Energy will benefit the citizens of Virginia and provide stronger energy security for the Commonwealth.”

NASA Langley will provide dataset guidance, technical insight and informational support on NASA’s Prediction of Worldwide Energy Resources (POWER) resources, as available. Virginia Energy will lead all modeling, analysis and implementation, including evaluating how POWER data can support planning tools such as PLEXOS. The collaboration will strengthen Virginia Energy’s in-house analytical capability while keeping energy planning responsibilities with the agency.

Under the nonreimbursable Space Act Agreement, each agency will fund its own participation, with no transfer of funds between them.



The Virginia Department of Energy team and the NASA Langley Research Center team at the ceremonial partnership signing. Pictured are, left to right (back row), Patrick Taylor, Lena Pascale, Zoe York, Vince Maiden, Allen Kilgore, Shanna Combley, (front row), Paul Stackhouse, Brandi Frazier Bestpitch, Ashish Sedai, Amy Tarnowski, and Paul Speth.

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