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Virginia Awards Contract to Firm to Advance Energy Storage Technology in the Commonwealth

~ Strategen Consulting will lead a strategic review to capitalize on the emerging energy storage sector ~

RICHMOND – Governor Ralph Northam announced today that the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) has selected Strategen Consulting to undertake a study and make recommendations for policymakers on ways to advance energy storage in the Commonwealth. Energy storage is a technology that could revolutionize Virginia’s energy landscape.

“The demand for renewable energy is stronger than ever, and energy storage will only help to enable the resource to grow,” **said Governor Northam**. “Innovative technologies like energy storage will help produce a modern electric grid that is secure and resilient for all Virginians while providing economic opportunities in an emerging industry.”

The study is a result of legislation enacted during the 2018 General Assembly session providing funding to the Solar Energy Development and Energy Storage Authority to determine if regulatory reforms and incentives will prove fruitful in encouraging emerging energy storage capacity in the Commonwealth.

“Energy storage is very significant because it allows people to dispatch energy from renewable sources when the sun doesn’t shine and the wind doesn’t blow,” **said Delegate David Toscano**. “It is the future and the results of this study will provide Virginia with tools to be a leader in this critical field.”

DMME, which serves as staff to the Authority, issued a Request for Proposals in September 2018 seeking a partner to develop the study. Strategen is uniquely qualified to deliver a top-notch review of the energy storage sector and determine the opportunity for the Commonwealth to be a leader in the nation.

“Strategen’s proposal demonstrates deep experience and a history of success in state-sponsored energy storage studies,” **said DMME Director John Warren.** “They recognize every government client project is unique, as are the interests of each state’s stakeholders. I believe they can find Virginia’s competitive advantages to meet the needs of an energy storage industry.”

Strategen will deliver an interim report and presentation to the Authority in May. A final report, including recommendations for policymakers, is expected in September.

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