



GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA

Glenn Youngkin

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Governor Glenn Youngkin Announces Virginia Energy Award of \$275,000 to UVA Wise for Nuclear Control Room Simulator

*Investment to Prepare Skilled Regional Workforce for Future Nuclear
Deployment*

RICHMOND, VA – Governor Glenn Youngkin announced today that the [Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank](#) (VCEIB), powered by Virginia Energy, has awarded \$275,000 to the [University of Virginia's College at](#)

[Wise](#) (UVA Wise) for a nuclear control room simulator that will provide workforce training in Southwest Virginia.

The simulator will be one of only two NuScale E2 Center control room simulators on the East Coast and will position Southwest Virginia as a training and innovation hub for advanced nuclear energy and clean power workforce development.

"Virginia is leading the way in pairing innovation with opportunity, and this new NuScale small modular reactor simulator at UVA Wise is a powerful example of that vision in action," **said Governor Glenn Youngkin**. "By investing in advanced nuclear training in Southwest Virginia, we are preparing our students and workers for the next generation of high-paying energy and technology jobs while strengthening our All-American, All-of-the-Above Energy Plan."

The small modular reactor (SMR) control room simulator will support workforce and professional training, additional K-12 STEM programming, and community open houses to build public understanding of advanced nuclear technology and clean energy. By anchoring SMR-focused education in Southwest Virginia, the project is intended to help prepare a skilled regional workforce for future nuclear deployment and energy-intensive industries such as data centers.

"The VCEIB's investment in this NuScale simulator at UVA Wise is a strategic step toward securing the highly skilled workforce Virginia needs for its advanced nuclear future," **said Glenn Davis, Director of the Virginia Department of Energy**. "By bringing cutting-edge SMR training capabilities to Southwest Virginia, we are strengthening the region's role in clean energy innovation."

"The simulator supports the Commonwealth's goals for delivering reliable, affordable, and increasingly clean power," **said Julianne Szyper, Deputy Director of the Virginia Department of Energy**. "Furthermore, we are strengthening the cooperative environment for our higher education, industry leaders, and our communities, which is essential as we address the energy challenges of the future."

UVA Wise will integrate the simulator into workforce programming, including a state-of-the-art SMR Operations and Control Simulation Lab designed to immerse students in reactor operations, safety, and emergency response scenarios. The lab will be located at the college's Oxbow Center in the town of St. Paul and is similar to simulators at George Mason University and Virginia Commonwealth University.

The college will collaborate with George Mason, the Virginia Innovative Nuclear Hub (VINHub), and the Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium (VNEC) to share curriculum, leverage technical expertise, and maximize statewide educational and research benefits.

"We are excited for this new opportunity to help the region's workforce gain hands-on experience with one of the world's leading technologies," **said Donna P. Henry, Chancellor of UVA Wise.** "The NuScale simulator will enhance our outreach programs, expand STEM outreach, and help increase understanding about energy possibilities while positioning Southwest Virginia at the forefront of clean energy workforce development."

The grant will support its purchase, installation and initial training activities. UVA Wise plans to confirm the simulator order in December with installation and training beginning in January 2026.

Through support for innovative initiatives like these, VCEIB accelerates the deployment of clean power generation and energy infrastructure across the Commonwealth with loans and other financing options. By mobilizing public and private capital to address critical financing gaps in these sectors, VCEIB supports the goals outlined in Virginia's All-American, All-of-the-Above Energy Plan.

Information about additional funding opportunities through the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank is [available online](#).

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