



State Corporation Commission Document Control Center  
P.O. Box 2118  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

May 13, 2024

**RE: PUR-2023-00169; Petition of Appalachian Power Company for approval to continue rate adjustment clause, the EE-RAC, and for approval of new energy efficiency programs.**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council (VAEEC) in support of Appalachian Power Company's (ApCo) proposed DSM application (PUR-2023-00169).

Founded in 2012, VAEEC is a nonprofit organization, headquartered in Richmond, whose goal is to facilitate discussions and share resources to advance energy efficiency throughout the Commonwealth. We engage our members to identify barriers to and opportunities for energy efficiency advancement, and to develop a strong, fact-based, and balanced industry voice before local, state, and national policymakers and regulators. Our diverse group of over 100 members includes Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits, local governments, state agencies, and more whose vision is for energy efficiency to be an integral part of Virginia's economy and clean energy future.

We applaud ApCo's efforts to continually expand their DSM program offerings to customers in order to meet their energy-savings goals as stated in the VA Clean Economy Act.

With the current filing, one particular program stands out - the Residential School Kits Program - which will provide energy education and take-home kits to students throughout the company's service territory. The robust curriculum and presentation materials will target both students and families to help them develop smart energy usage habits and install measures at home to generate savings. These materials will coincide with the state Standards of Learning.

Student education programs have been tied to environmental improvements for decades. The US recycling rate rose from 6.4% in 1960 to 35.1% in 2017, largely due to ongoing school outreach – reduce, reuse, recycle is taught in classrooms to this day. Similarly, the Residential School Kits Program will educate and empower children to take home what they learn and work with their families to achieve real, measurable energy reductions. This will lead to lower utility bills, improved indoor air quality, more comfortable living spaces, and less strain on the grid.

The National Energy Foundation (NEF) has implemented their Think! Energy program for utilities across the country since 2000. Their programs have reached over nine million students and have a 99% approval rate among teachers. Their extensive track record indicates that this program will be successful and will make a lasting, positive change in customer behavior. As the

majority of the service territory is rural, it will be critical that NEF and ApCo connect with local partners to launch the Residential School Kits Program to reach schools and students.

The spaces where we live and work make a measurable difference in the quality of our lives and health. By adopting an early intervention model to teach K-12 students about energy efficiency and techniques to manage both their own and their family's energy use, the Residential School Kits Program will produce a generation of informed, intelligent consumers and produce lasting change across the region. We strongly urge the State Corporation Commission to approve this program.

Respectfully,

Chelsea Harnish  
Executive Director  
Virginia Energy Efficiency Council