

## Virginia Offshore Wind

In 2012, I was honored to be appointed by the Governor as one of eight members of the Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority (VOWDA). VOWDA was established by legislation passed by the General Assembly to represent the Commonwealth with Federal, State, and local authorities and private industry for the purpose of having Virginia take a leadership role in the United States, and particularly on the East Coast, in the development, deployment and maintenance of Offshore Wind farms.

- VOWDA is supported technically and administratively by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME).
- Virginia Offshore Wind is mature and officially ready for development. Dominion Resources was awarded the Federal lease on September 4, 2013.
- The designated Virginia Offshore Wind Area is 23-26 miles off the Virginia Beach coast and comprises some 112,000 acres.
  - The Wind Area has been fully vetted by all concerned and potentially impacted interests.
  - The 200-250 wind turbines to be installed will provide enough electricity to power some 700,000 homes.
- Virginia's infrastructure and manpower assets are uniquely capable of supporting offshore wind.
- Offshore Wind is the most promising future growth engine for Virginia and the only long-term job preservation opportunity on the horizon for the shipbuilding/ship repair industry.
- There are challenges – none of which are insurmountable:
  - Cost concerns
  - Other states are actively developing capabilities
- VOWDA web site: <http://wind.jmu.edu/offshore/vowda>
- Offshore Wind Supply Chain organization – The VOW Coalition
  - Web site: <http://www.vawindcoalition.com>
- Dominion Resources Services, Inc. contacts:
  - Mr. John Larson, Director, Alternative Energy Generation Technologies
    - [John.Larson@dom.com](mailto:John.Larson@dom.com)
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