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Spanberger joins in case for Dominion merger

Governor concerned about affordability, preserving jobs

By Kate Seltzer
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Abigail Spanberger announced Thursday that she will formally become a party in the case before the State Corporation Commission that is weighing whether to allow a proposed merger between Dominion Energy

and Florida-based NextEra.

By intervening — requesting to become a formal party in the case — the governor's office would be able to ask discovery questions, file expert testimony, put witnesses on the stand and be at the table for potential settlement negotiations.

That level of involvement is an unprecedented move for a Virginia governor in this kind of case with the regulatory body, though Spanberger's administration had previously filed comments in other SCC cases.

"The size and scope of this merger application is also unprecedented," Spanberger told reporters Thursday afternoon. "To be able to have a seat at the table, access to the questions that others are asking, access to the answers and all of the documents filed in this case is an important priority."

If the Virginia SCC and other regulatory bodies approve NextEra's proposed \$67 billion acquisition of Dominion, the

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Gov. Abigail Spanberger will formally become a party in the case that is weighing whether to allow a proposed merger between Dominion Energy and Florida-based NextEra. **STEVE HELBER/AP**



A tourist with children passes an Oceanfront souvenir shop displaying what might be considered questionable T-shirts in the storefront along Atlantic Avenue on Wednesday. **STEPHEN M. KATZ/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT PHOTOS**

‘Funny’ or ‘weird’?

Vulgar clothing returns to Atlantic Avenue shops despite city requests

By Stacy Parker
STAFF WRITER

VIRGINIA BEACH — One year after city officials attempted to quash the proliferation of raunchy clothing displayed in storefronts on Atlantic Avenue, the apparel has returned and is turning heads again this summer.

Yes, "I (heart) boobies" is back along with a few new tongue-in-cheek selections.

"There's no question they're reappearing sporadically," said Councilman Worth Remick, who represents half of the

Oceanfront resort area. "It has been an ongoing problem."

Several shops in the Oceanfront resort area are again showcasing sassy, and in some cases indecent, T-shirts and short shorts in storefront windows. Some of this season's newest selection of provocative messages are among the store's top sellers.

At Salty Waves on Atlantic Avenue, a short-sleeved black T-shirt with "Proud father of a few dumba** kids" printed in all capital white letters is

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Amir Eicke, Salty Waves store manager, believes his store has followed the city's request to remove vulgar T-shirts and inappropriate clothing from storefronts along Atlantic Avenue.



Rio, a 9-year-old German shorthaired pointer, cools off in a kiddie pool Saturday in Los Angeles. **RICHARD VOGEL/AP**

Poll shows heat is reshaping daily life

US adults more likely to say extreme heat has personal impact

By Alexa St. John and Linley Sanders
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elisa Bracamonte has lived in Arizona her whole life, so she's used to adjusting her schedule and outdoor activities around high temperatures, especially during the summer months.

But the retired nurse, 74, from

Tucson said she feels the heat has been impacting more of her day-to-day: summer plans with family members across the region, meetups with friends, road trips and her daily morning walk routine.

"I've noticed at least a 10-degree difference in the weather," Bracamonte said. "Every summer, it seems to be getting hotter and hotter."

Like Bracamonte, Americans are increasingly feeling

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Former physics leader sues lab

Keppel alleges sex discrimination, wrongful termination at Jefferson Lab

By Peter Dujardin
STAFF WRITER

NEWPORT NEWS — One of Jefferson Lab's former leaders alleges in a federal lawsuit that she was discriminated against — then ousted from her job — last year because of her sex.

Cynthia E. Keppel, a decorated scientist who had been with the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility for more than 30 years, contends Lab Director Jens Dilling began subjecting her to a hostile work environment soon after he got the top job in May 2025.



According to the complaint, Dilling continuously bypassed Keppel to speak with her male subordinates, even as she had been the lab's associate director for experimental nuclear physics since 2021.

The 42-page complaint contends Dilling consistently interrupted Keppel at meetings and dismissed her views "while treating her male colleagues with deference." Moreover, he implemented an audit of the physics division in an attempt to target her, the complaint asserts.

That culminated in a notice to Keppel on Nov. 21, 2025.

"After careful consideration, this letter serves as formal notice that your employment with Jefferson Science Associates LLC is terminated effective immediately," the notice said, adding that Dilling had "determined that your ability to lead the division is not aligned

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FAUCI IN CONTEMPT

A Senate committee voted to hold Dr. Anthony Fauci in contempt of Congress over his refusal to answer questions on his handling of the pandemic. **Nation & World, Page 5**

AI IN SCHOOLS

Artificial intelligence will be integrated into Norfolk classrooms starting next school year. **Page 2**

HONORING ANCESTORS

Artist Christopher Dione is sharing his family's story in a new exhibit at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center. **Pulse**

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