



**VEDA/VEDP impactED+**  
**Thursday, August 19, 2021**

*Working with Virginia's Electric Utilities on Economic Development Projects*



**Felicia Ainsa**  
**Director of Economic Development**  
**Rappahannock Electric Cooperative**

Felicia Ainsa has served as Rappahannock Electric Cooperative's first-ever Director of Economic Development since 2020. REC provides electric service to over 170,000 connections in parts of 22 Virginia counties and is one of the largest electric cooperatives in the US. Before coming to REC, Felicia served as the BRE Manager for the Henrico EDA. During her time there, she was project manager for two projects that won Area Development's Gold and Silver Shovel awards, and for 3 of the Top 15 Economic Development projects in Virginia in 2019.

Felicia earned a Bachelor's degree in International Law and Diplomacy from Brigham Young University and earned her Master of Business Administration in May 2021 from Old Dominion University.



**Whitney B. Czelusniak**  
**Economic & Business Development Manager**  
**AEP**

Whitney (Bonham) Czelusniak joined AEP as a Business & Economic Development Manager in Spring 2021. In this role, Whitney promotes the AEP-Appalachian Power region to new customers, assists growing customers, and supports external economic development partners to achieve their goals.

Prior to joining AEP, Whitney served as the economic development coordinator for Washington County, VA from where she maintained oversight of the county's economic development office and programs. She also held previous roles as an economic development specialist for Virginia Tech's Office of Economic Development (now Center for Economic and Community Engagement), and management fellow for the City of Savannah, GA.

A native of Southwest Virginia, Whitney earned a Master of Public Administration degree and Graduate Certificate in Economic Development from Virginia Tech. She completed her undergraduate education at Roanoke College. In her free time, Whitney is active in several community organizations and enjoys hiking, gardening, running, and playing piano.



**Richard Imel**  
**Manager, Strategic Economic Development**  
**Dominion Energy**

Richard W. Imel is Manager, Strategic Economic Development, Dominion Energy Virginia.

He is responsible for business recruitment and economic development efforts across the regulated electric service territories in Virginia and North Carolina. Imel and his team support business development projects with a specific focus on the following industries: energy intensive manufacturing, food and beverage, indoor agriculture and clean energy supply chain. Imel earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Radford University and has an MBA from Strayer University.



**Kirk Johnson**  
**Senior Vice President for Member Engagement**  
**Old Dominion Electric Cooperative**

Kirk Johnson is Senior Vice President for Member Engagement at Old Dominion Electric Cooperative. He is responsible for developing and executing strategies to enhance ODEC's engagement with external stakeholders and ODEC's members. Prior to joining ODEC, Kirk was Senior Vice President of Government Relations at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. In that role, Kirk directed NRECA's legislative, regulatory, and political efforts on behalf of the association's 900 members in 48 states.

Kirk and his wife Janet Woodka live in Richmond, Virginia. He enjoys playing golf, traveling, cooking, and playing with their dogs Gumbo and Roux.