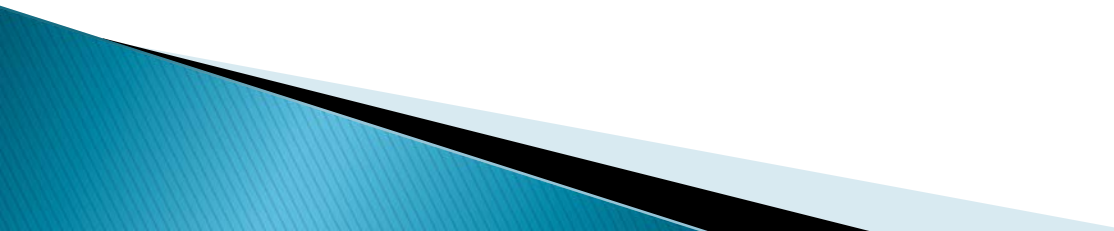


The Environment vs. Business

Does Virginia Have the Appropriate Checks and Balances?

VEI Presentation
October 28, 2016

Presenters

- ▶ Jeff McDermott, *Department of Social Services*
 - ▶ Scott Armstrong, *State Corporation Commission*
 - ▶ Doreen Richmond, *Department of Game and Inland Fisheries*
 - ▶ Dev Nair, *Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services*
 - ▶ Greg Williams, *Department of Corrections*
- 

Building the New Economy AND Preserving Virginia's Natural Resources

- ▶ Importance of the Issue
 - Coal Ash Example
- ▶ Current State
- ▶ Proposals
 - Virginia Environmental Plan
 - Portal

Why is this Issue Important?



Kingston Coal Ash Spill

- Detrimental to the environment
- Detrimental to business

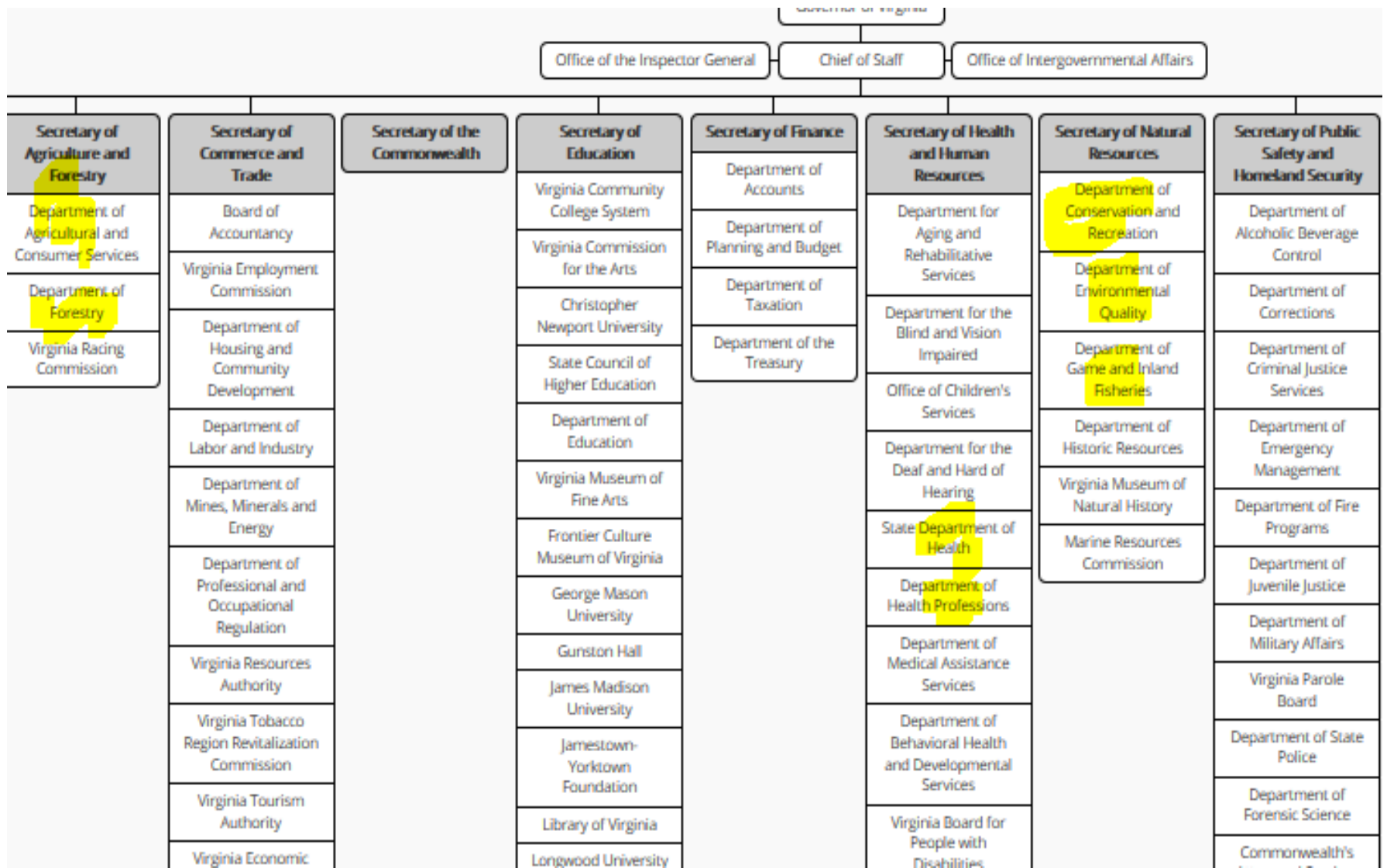
Source: <http://tn.gov/environment/topic/tdecs-25-for-25>

Coal Ash Ponds in Virginia

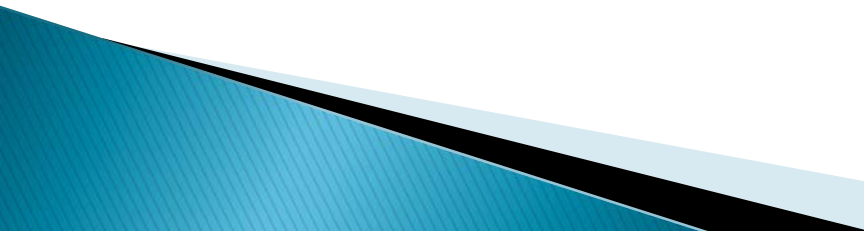


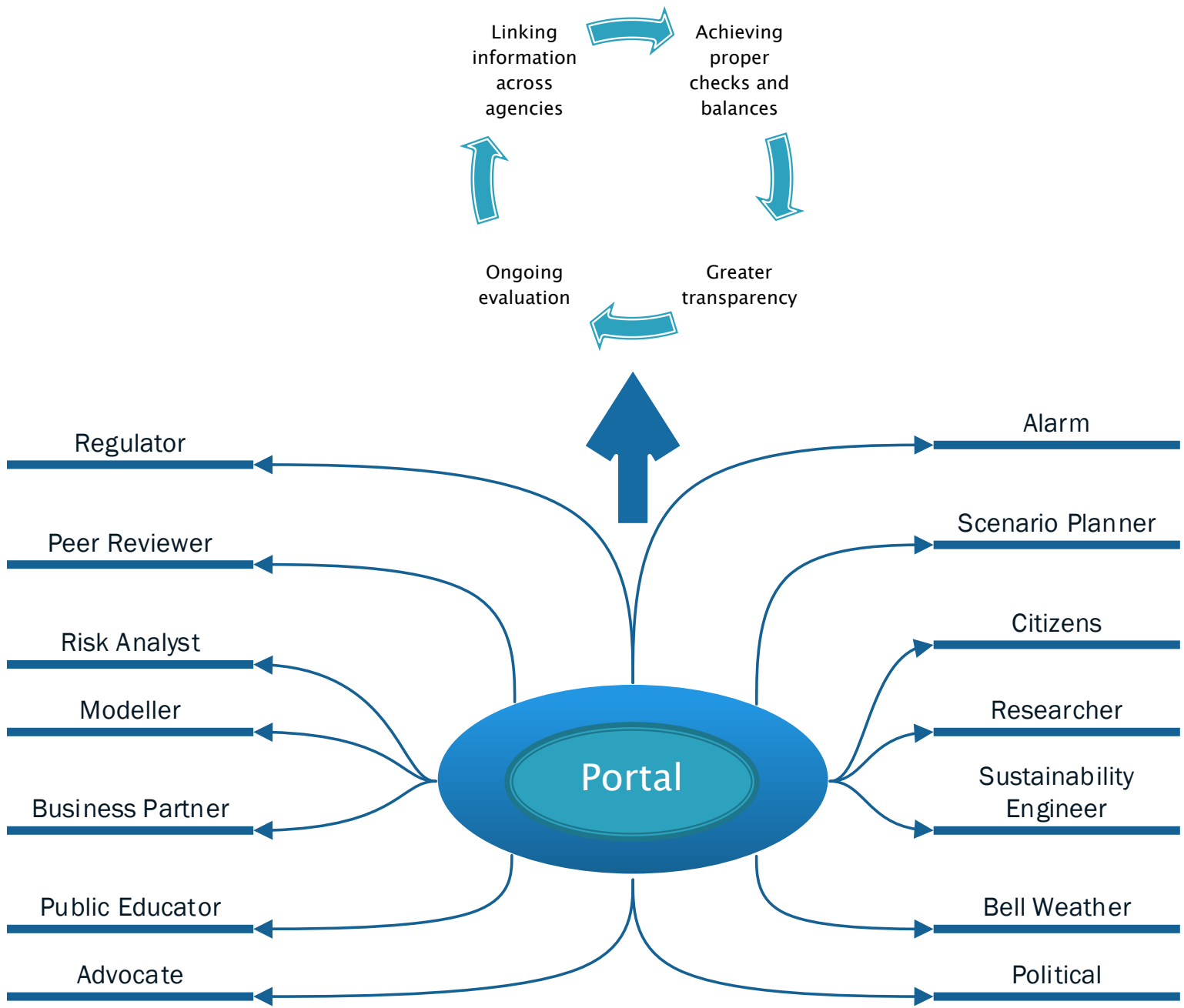
Source: www.deq.virginia.gov

Regulating Business and the Environment

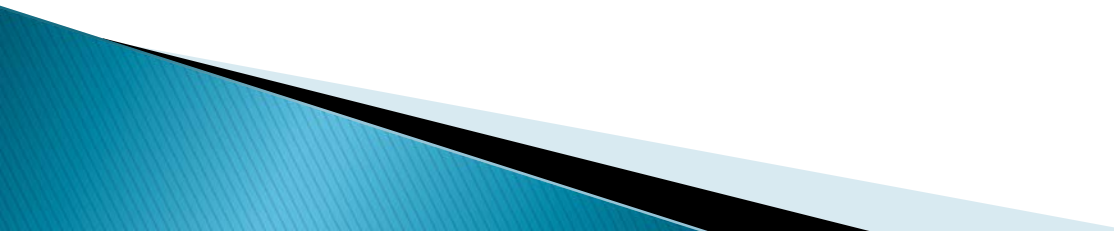


Virginia Environmental Plan

- ▶ Balancing broad stakeholder needs
 - Overarching environmental/ business goals
 - Metrics for costs and impacts
 - ▶ Establishing sustainable governance mechanisms
 - Regulations tied to environmental plan
 - Assess ongoing effectiveness and cost/benefit of regulations
 - ▶ Improving communication and decision-making
- 



Portal Benefits

- ▶ Regulations
 - ▶ Stakeholder Transparency
 - ▶ Implementation Mechanisms
- 

Conclusion

- ▶ Achieving proper checks and balances between environment and business requires:
 - An overall state plan that defines objectives, strategies, as well as positive and negative impacts
 - Increased transparency to drive greater stakeholder trust and engagement
 - A plan to regularly evaluate the impact of regulation on meeting plan objectives
 - A portal to link and coordinate information and activities across state agencies, scientists, businesses, and the public