

# VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **THE BABCOCK & WILCOX COMPANY IN NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, RECEIVES THE VIRGINIA “STAR” DESIGNATION UNDER THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY’S VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM**

**RICHMOND, VA** – Commissioner C. Ray Davenport announced today that The Babcock & Wilcox Company’s (B&W) Newport News, Virginia, facility has been reapproved as a Virginia STAR Worksite under the Virginia’s Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), the agency’s highest level of recognition for excellence in safety and health management systems. The facility was honored with its third recertification on April 17, 2019, since being originally certified on February 23, 2009.

“The management and employees of this facility have exemplified true leadership in the area of occupational safety and health, and I commend them for embracing the cooperative spirit of VPP”, said Commissioner Davenport. “I congratulate B&W in Newport News on the occasion of their recertification as a Virginia STAR Worksite.”

B&W’s commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace for its employees is demonstrated by its very low injury and illness rates. The B&W facility has a total three-year average for the TCIR (Total Case Incident Rate for injuries and illnesses) of 0.00 compared with a Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) national rate of 1.3 for the industry, representing a TCIR rate 100% lower than the national average for the industry. The site’s three-year average DART rate (Days Away, Restricted, or Transferred injury and illness cases) is 0.00, compared with the 0.1 national rate, which is 100% below the national average for the industry.

As part of the recognition for achieving STAR status under VPP, the worksite is entitled to fly the Virginia “STAR Worksite” flag. VPP includes two levels of participation, Merit and STAR, with STAR being the highest. Similar voluntary protection programs are conducted in other states across the country.

The process for reaching STAR status is extensive to ensure that only the very best programs qualify. Since the inception of Virginia’s STAR in 1996, only 69 STAR worksites have been recognized, and only 38 Virginia companies currently retain the STAR/Merit designation. B&W has set a standard of excellence that is second to none.

In Virginia VPP, a cooperative relationship is formed between the VOSH program, the employer, and employees which include the agreement of company leaders to operate exceptional safety and health management systems that meet a rigorous set of occupational safety and health criteria. Employers agree to voluntarily participate in the program and to directly involve employees in all aspects of the company’s safety and health management systems. Requirements include an extensive application process, submission of written safety and health policies and procedures, demonstration of successful implementation of those programs through injury and illness rates that are below the national average for the employer’s industry, and an intensive weeklong inspection by a team of VPP experts.

Virginia businesses that participate in VPP substantially improve safety and health protection for thousands of Virginia employees through cooperative efforts to reduce injuries, illnesses, and fatal accidents. Virginia STAR sites regularly report decreased bottom line costs associated with dramatically reduced injury and illness rates (an average of approximately 60% below the respective industry average), and improved productivity and employee morale. Reducing private sector employer costs associated with injuries, illnesses, and fatal accidents enhances a company’s economic viability and competitiveness, and increases available capital for reinvestment, expansion, and new hiring.

DOLI operates five voluntary protection and recognition programs. The [Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program](#) (SHARP) for businesses of 250 employees or fewer

is operated by the DOLI Consultative Services Division. Contact Allen Hatch, Consultation Program Manager, at (540) 248-9280, ext. 15 or [Allen.Hatch@doli.virginia.gov](mailto:Allen.Hatch@doli.virginia.gov).

[Virginia Voluntary Protection Programs](#) (VVPP) operates [Virginia STAR](#); and [Virginia BEST](#) (**B**uilding **E**xcellence in **S**afety, Health and **T**raining), which is a strategic partnership between the DOLI and the Associated General Contractors of Virginia ([AGCVA](#)) that recognizes AGCVA members who voluntarily implement highly effective safety and health management systems to benefit construction workers and reduce or eliminate injuries, illnesses and fatalities on construction sites in Virginia. [Virginia CHALLENGE](#) is a three stage process that dramatically improves safety and health at the worksite and prepares the company to apply for Virginia STAR recognition. The [VOSH-VADOC CHALLENGE](#) is a strategic partnership between the DOLI and the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) to recognize safety and health excellence at correctional facilities around the Commonwealth. Three stages of participation in VADOC Challenge prepare a site to apply for Virginia STAR recognition. Virginia has the only two correctional facilities in the nation to have received VPP STAR status, Augusta and Lunenburg Correctional Centers. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the DOLI office closest to you at [www.doli.virginia.gov](http://www.doli.virginia.gov) or contact Milford Stern, VPP Program Manager, at (540) 562-3580, ext. 123, or [Milford.Stern@doli.virginia.gov](mailto:Milford.Stern@doli.virginia.gov).

DOLI also offers free [On-Site Consultation Services](#) to help employers better understand and voluntarily comply with VOSH standards. Priority is given to high hazard workplaces with 250 or fewer employees and all services are offered to employers at no cost. On-Site Consultation Services helps employers identify and correct potential safety and health hazards by conducting walk-through surveys (without citations or penalties), abatement advice, on-site training, and program assistance to develop safety and health programs. Additional information about On-Site Consultation Services can be obtained by contacting the DOLI office closest to you at [www.doli.virginia.gov](http://www.doli.virginia.gov) or by contacting Allen Hatch, Consultation Program Manager, at (540) 248-9280, ext. 15, or [Allen.Hatch@doli.virginia.gov](mailto:Allen.Hatch@doli.virginia.gov).

The Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) program is financed with 50% state funds and 50% federal funds in the form of a grant from the U. S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), under §23(g) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

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