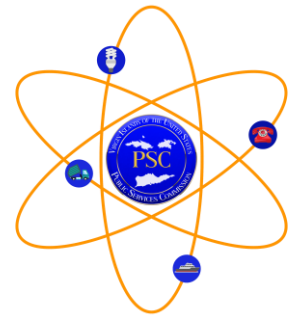




**Government of the United States Virgin Islands
Public Services Commission**

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Tuesday, December 10, 2024

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PSC Regular Meeting – Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Telecommunication Matters

US VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Public Services Commission (PSC or the Commission) held its regular meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

In August 2018, Broadband VI, LLC (BBVI) was granted Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Designation, which made BBVI eligible for Universal Service Fund (USF) support and the award of Connect USVI funds. As part of the agreement, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) allocated \$84.5 million to BBVI over ten years, requiring 40% of its fiber optic system build-out to be completed by December 31, 2024. However, Liberty, which acquired Broadband VI, has fallen significantly behind schedule and is unable to meet this deadline.

BBVI has filed a Petition for Waiver with the FCC, requesting an extension on the 40% milestone, which involves 18,416 locations. To date, BBVI has completed approximately 6,000 of the required locations. Jean Santiago, Regulatory Counsel for BBVI mentioned that their team is working to complete an additional 1,000 locations by the end of the week, with a goal of reaching 9,000 to 10,000 by year-end. Challenges cited include issues with permitting from the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works (DPW) and pole attachment negotiations with the Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority (WAPA). The term "pole attachment" refers not just to utility poles, but also to other facilities, such as ducts and conduits. While the Public Services Commission has the authority to order joint use of these facilities, neither BBVI nor WAPA has formally requested the assistance of the Commission.

Mr. Santiago affirmed that BBVI will continue negotiations with WAPA and emphasized their commitment to keeping both the PSC and the FCC informed about construction progress and ongoing discussions with WAPA and DPW.

All Commissioners were present at the meeting. Ex-officio members Senator Carla Joseph and Senator Marise James were excused. An Executive Session was held to discuss pending administrative and litigation matters, but no action was taken. For recent news releases, more information on the PSC, and easy access to utility-related issues, visit our website at psc.vi.gov. Like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/VIPSC1965.

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