

**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Public Services Commission

IN RE:)	Order No. <u>18</u> /2021
)	Docket No. 650
APPLICATION OF VIRGIN ISLANDS WASTE)	
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY FOR SOLID)	
WASTE TIPPING FEES)	
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Order

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2015, the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority’s (hereinafter “Authority” or “WMA”) submitted an Application for Solid Waste Tipping Fees to the Virgin Islands Public Services Commission (hereinafter “PSC” or “Commission”); and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2016, after holding public hearings, receiving testimony from the public and PSC’s consultant, and after the presentation of the report of the Hearing Examiner, the PSC approved the recommendations and rates for various forms of solid waste, the PSC accepted the recommendations of the Hearing Examiner and approved the tipping fees (*Order No. 50/2016*); and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2017, WMA’s Executive Director, Mr. Roger Merritt submitted a request acknowledging that WMA was unable to accurately measure waste by weight and sought approval to temporarily collect the previously approved tipping fees using volume to waste conversion factors (as provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) for the period from July 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017, until WMA’s infrastructure is in place to assess the fees via weight; and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2017, the Commission approved WMA’s Application for Solid Waste Tipping Fees, WMA’s request to bill under the proposed methodology of volume to waste, for the islands of St. Thomas and St. John for the period stated above, and that the previously approved methodology be implemented on the island of St. Croix for a period not to exceed six (6) months (*Order No. 62/2017*); and

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands suffered the impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017, which effectively shut down normal governmental operations for an extended period and which imposed additional burdens on the Waste Management Authority; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2020, WMA submitted an updated Application for Solid Waste Tipping Fees, designed to recover costs of managing a waste processing and disposal facility and to distribute that burden among users of the facility; and

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2021, the Commission held a Regular Meeting via Zoom video conferencing system that was hosted at the PSC St. Thomas office located at No. 1003 Estate Ross Suite 4, Barbel Plaza; and

WHEREAS, the Commission witnessed testimony from its technical consultant, Avery Williams, and WMA; and

WHEREAS, upon review and deliberation, the Commission voted to approve WMA's Application for Solid Waste Tipping Fees with the methodology of volume to waste and the delayed of implementation of fees for 60 days for the purposes of public education and media announcements; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission ORDERS that:

1. The WMA's Application for Solid Waste Tipping Fees with the methodology of volume to waste is APPROVED.
2. The WMA's Fee Schedule is APPROVED, as follows:

Solid waste collection haulers and other customers

Year 2021 - \$2.50 per CY

Year 2022 - \$3.75 per CY

Year 2023 - \$5.00 per CY

Year 2024 - \$6.25 per CY

Year 2025 - \$7.50 per CY

Solid waste collection haulers and other customers for construction and demolition projects

Year 2021 - \$7.50 per CY

3. The implementation of the fees will be delayed for 60 days for the purposes of public education and media announcements.

So Ordered.

For the Commission,



David Hughes, Chairman

Date: **July 16, 2021**