



Government of the United States Virgin Islands Public Services Commission

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Public Services Commission Regular Meeting Recap: Energy Procurement and Utility Planning

U.S. Virgin Islands — The Virgin Islands Public Services Commission (PSC) convened its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, to advance critical matters related to energy procurement, utility planning, and regulatory oversight affecting the Territory’s electric system. During the meeting, the Commission received detailed briefings from the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA) on ongoing fuel procurement efforts, consultant selection, and potential waste-to-energy initiatives.

The Commission received an update on discussions involving WAPA, Advanced Sustainable Technologies (AST), and the Waste Management Authority regarding a proposed waste-to-energy project. WAPA confirmed that engagement with the project proponents is ongoing and emphasized that any electricity produced would be subject to the avoided-cost provisions of the Virgin Islands Cogeneration and Small Power Production Act. WAPA indicated that avoided-cost pricing would likely be under fifteen cents per kilowatt-hour and reiterated that any power purchase agreement would be structured to ensure ratepayer protection. WAPA further noted that electricity sales alone would not be sufficient to finance the project and referenced past models that combined tipping fees with power purchase revenues to support capital costs.

The Commission also discussed Docket 685, which concerns Qualifying Facility designation. WAPA and other participants advised that progress remains limited pending additional responses from project representatives and the Waste Management Authority. Commissioners confirmed that the matter remains under active review and directed staff to continue follow-up efforts.

Under Docket 706, WAPA reported significant progress in its procurement process to retain a new electric consultant. Finalist interviews have been completed, and PSC Staff advised that a recommendation package, including evaluation scores, will be transmitted to the Commission on an expedited basis. To maintain critical project timelines, the Commission agreed to continue the docket and schedule a special meeting in the coming weeks to allow for final action prior to the February regular meeting.

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The Commission also received a comprehensive presentation on Docket 702 related to WAPA's liquefied petroleum gas procurement. WAPA outlined the solicitation process, evaluation methodology, and board approval of a recommended vendor. Contract negotiations are currently underway, and WAPA stated its intent to finalize an agreement prior to the March 15, 2026, expiration of the current temporary supply arrangement. The recommended pricing represents a reduction from the prior permanent contract and is expected to generate significant cost savings. WAPA further confirmed that inter-island transportation costs were included in the proposals and that a vessel has been identified to support service between St. Thomas and St. Croix.

Commissioners commended WAPA for the transparency of the procurement process and emphasized the importance of timely transmission of materials to support Commission review. WAPA acknowledged recent delays related to end-of-year scheduling constraints and committed to improved coordination moving forward.

The Virgin Islands Public Services Commission regulates public utilities and oversees energy procurement to ensure safe, reliable, and cost-effective services for the people of the Territory.

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