



NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY
02/04/2026

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION DOCKET 691: STT/STJ FERRY SERVICE RATE INVESTIGATION UPDATE

Background

The Virgin Islands Public Services Commission (PSC) is statutorily obligated to investigate the rates and services of all regulated utilities under its jurisdiction at least once every five years. As part of this mandate, the Commission established Docket No. 691 to review the ferry rates and services provided under the exclusive ferry franchise jointly held by Varlack Ventures, Inc. and Transportation Services of St. John, Inc. (“Franchisees”).

To conduct this review, the PSC engaged Jed JohnHope as the Hearing Examiner (HE) to conduct the rate investigation.



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 340-776-1291

What Happened

Over the course of two days, the Commission convened public hearings on St. John (February 2) and St. Thomas (February 3), inviting participants, testers, stakeholders, and members of the general public to gather input and share comments and experiences. Persons were also encouraged to submit written commentary and complete an online survey.

Community participants commented on the following: high cost of living in the Virgin Islands, affordable transportation options, recent facility fee increases, and the ferry system serving as the primary and consistently relied-upon source of inter-island transportation. Several participants noted that potential increases would place an additional financial burden on residents who rely on the service daily for work, school, and essential needs.

What's Next?

HE JohnHope is expected to draft a report of findings that will include financials, testimony, public commentary, surveys and feedback received during the review and investigatory process. Per HE JohnHope's schedule of events, the draft report will be available for public review from April 10, 2026, to April 24, 2026.

All parties are invited to provide further comments for consideration within the rate investigation. Continued public participation is a critical component of the decision-making process.

The PSC encourages all interested parties to stay engaged and continue participating as the review and investigatory process continues.

