



GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Office of the Commissioner

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES INTENT TO MAKE REVISIONS TO THE REGULATORY PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARDS, SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT, PART VI, TITLE 19, SECTION 1303, CHAPTER 51, SUBCHAPTER I OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES.

DATE OF NOTICE: July 1, 2022

DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING: July 29, 2022, 6:00 PM

DESCRIPTION OF NOTICE:

Subsection (b) of Title 19, section 1303 authorizes the Commissioner of the United States Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) to promulgate regulations that adopt, incorporate and enforce, herein by reference the National Primary Drinking Water Act, as amended and supplemented from time to time. DPNR has adopted the revised total coliform rules by reference and gives notice of its intent to propose revision to the existing regulations, and additionally, to solicit comments on this intent.

In February 2013, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated the final Revised Total Coliform Rule. The rule was published in the Federal Registry and became effective on April 15, 2013. The compliance date for the rule requirements was April 1, 2016. The revised regulation rule was promulgated to ensure that standards are established to adequately protect human health.

The DPNR is tasked with the protection of the environment and human health under federal and local laws. DPNR is hereby proposing to amend the Primary Drinking Water Standards rules and regulations for the Virgin Islands by adopting the federal requirements of the Revised Total Coliform Rule.

DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED REVISIONS/ADOPTION:

Following the publication of this notice, DPNR will hold a virtual (Teams) hearing on July 29, 2022, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on the proposed revision to the Primary Drinking Water Standards Rules and Regulations for the Virgin Islands. The hyperlink, call-in number, and access code for the hearing are as follows: <https://tinyurl.com/DrinkingWaterRegsRev>, call-in number: 1-786-605-4468; access code: 911 973 434#

All interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed revision to the Virgin Islands Drinking Water Standards Rules and Regulations. Based on the number of persons in attendance, time will be limited for each person to speak during the hearing.

DPNR will accept written comments. Persons may submit comments via regular mail or electronic mail to the designated contact person information below.

WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED starting July 15, 2022. COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY REGULAR MAIL SHALL BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN August 31, 2022.

The proposed amendment to the Primary Drinking Water Standards Rules and Regulations are available for public inspection on the DPNR website at <https://dpr.vi.gov/environmental-protection/public-water-system-supervision/> or by appointment only at the St. Croix and St. Thomas DPNR offices. To make arrangements to examine the document contact:

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DPNR's RESPONSE TO COMMENTS:

DPNR will prepare a written response to any oral comments made during the public hearing meeting held on July 29, 2022, as well as any written comments, RECEIVED BY ELECTRONIC MAIL OR REGULAR MAIL, submitted during the public comment period from July 15, 2022 to August 31, 2022.

DPNR will take all comments into consideration in making final edits to the proposed revised regulations and DPNR will submit the final proposed revisions of the Rules and Regulations to the appropriate government entities, in accordance with 3 V.I.C Chapter 35.