



GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS  
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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

4611 Tutu Park Mall  
Suite 300, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
St. Thomas, VI 00802  
(340) 774-3320

45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted  
St. Croix, VI 00840  
(340) 773-1082  
dprn.vi.gov



## PUBLIC NOTICE

**I.** NOTICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DPRN) INTENT TO ESTABLISH REVISED WATER QUALITY STANDARDS REGULATIONS (WQSR) FOR THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS UNDER TITLE 12 CHAPTER 7 SUBCHAPTER 186 OF THE VI RULES AND REGULATIONS.

**II.** **DATE OF NOTICE:** August 1, 2023

**III.** **DESCRIPTION OF THE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS REGULATIONS & RELATED REQUIREMENTS**

The United States Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPRN) is tasked with protecting the environment and human health under federal and local laws. The USVI Water Quality Standards define the appropriate physical, chemical, biological and ecological limits to support designated uses within the US Virgin Islands. Water Quality Standards provide the framework for protecting, maintaining and improving water quality. In an effort to provide greater protection of these resources, DPRN proposes to revise provisions of Title 12, Chapter 7, Subchapter 186 of the Virgin Islands Rules and Regulations pursuant to Section 303(c)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (the "Clean Water Act" (CWA), 33 U.S.C § 1313(c)), 40 C.F.R. § 131.20, and 12 V.I.C. § 186(a). DPRN is allowing a 60-day period for soliciting public comment on its intent to revise 12VIRR §186.

**IV.** **REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

The proposed Water Quality Standards Regulations (WQSR) are available for public inspection online at <http://dprn.vi.gov/public-notices/> or by appointment at the DPRN Division of Environmental Protection offices on St. Thomas and St. Croix, between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

To make arrangements to examine the proposed rules and regulations, or to submit comments, contact:

**MARY STIEHLER**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER**  
**WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**  
**4611 TUTU PARK MALL, SUITE 300, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**  
**ST. THOMAS, VI 00802**  
**(340) 774-3320, ext. 5058**  
[mary.stiehler@dprn.vi.gov](mailto:mary.stiehler@dprn.vi.gov)

The Administrative Record related to the change of 12VIRR §186, containing background technical information, is on file and may also be inspected at the Division of Environmental Protection office by appointment.

DPRN is allowing a 60-day period for soliciting public comment on its intent to revise 12VIRR §186.

**V. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Hearings on the proposed revisions to 12VIRR §186 will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in both districts as follows:

**St. Croix – Thursday, August 17, 2023, at DPNR, 45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted**

**St. Thomas – Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at DPNR, 4611 Tutu Park Mall, Suite 300, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.**

All interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to be heard on the subject of the proposed revisions to the WQSR.

**VI. DPNR'S RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

Following the close of the 60-day comment period, a written response to comments and petitions will be developed as soon as possible. Comments must be submitted to DPNR at the above-mentioned address either by email or in writing on or before October 1, 2023. All petitions and comments received during the public notice period will be considered. This response to comments and petitions will be available to the public in the same manner as today's notice.