

12/18/2024-SPECIAL ORDERED TO THE FLOOR

BILL NO. 35-0427

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

December 18, 2024

An Act requiring the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority to conduct a feasibility study, including a cost analysis, for the installation of a sewer line from Five Corners to Villa La Reine, St. Croix

PROPOSED BY: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. (a) The Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, a feasibility study to evaluate the viability of installing a sewer line from Five Corners to Villa La Reine, St. Croix. The study must assess technical, economic, environmental, and regulatory factors related to the project.

(b) At a minimum, the feasibility study must include:

(1) An analysis of the need for improved sewage infrastructure in the project area, addressing current deficiencies and accommodating future population growth;

(2) A clear definition of the project's purpose, geographic scope, and operational parameters;

(3) A survey of the number of households and businesses along the proposed route to assess sewage needs;

1 (4) An evaluation of potential sewer line routes, considering land use,
2 topography, and existing utilities;

3 (5) An assessment of the environmental impacts of the proposed sewer line
4 installation; and

5 (6) A comprehensive cost analysis, including initial construction costs and long-
6 term maintenance and operational expenses.

7 (c) The feasibility study report must include a summary of findings, detailed
8 recommendations, and any supporting documentation, including maps, charts, and data
9 analyses.

10 (d) The Authority shall consult with the Departments of Public Works, Planning and
11 Natural Resources, and other relevant agencies, to ensure compatibility with existing
12 infrastructure and compliance with environmental regulations.

13 **SECTION 2.** The feasibility study must commence no later than 180 days after the
14 enactment of this Act and be submitted to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands within 30 days
15 of its completion.

16 **SECTION 3.** The Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority shall seek and utilize
17 all available grants and funding sources to cover the costs of the feasibility study. If sufficient
18 external funding is not secured, the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority must request
19 an appropriation from the Legislature to complete the study.

20 **SECTION 4.** (a) If the feasibility study concludes that the installation and operation of
21 the sewer line are viable, and sufficient funding is secured from federal grants and other
22 sources, the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority may proceed with the development
23 and operation of the sewer infrastructure.

(b) If the feasibility study determines the project is not viable, the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority shall submit alternative recommendations to address sewage infrastructure deficiencies in the area.

SECTION 5. For purposes of this Act:

(a) "Feasibility study" means an analysis conducted to evaluate the technical, economic, environmental, and regulatory aspects of a proposed infrastructure project.

(b) "Sewer line" means a pipeline or conduit designed to transport wastewater from households or businesses to a treatment facility or disposal site.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill requires the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority to conduct a feasibility study assessing the viability of installing a sewer line from Five Corners to Villa La Reine, St. Croix. The study must evaluate technical, economic, environmental, and regulatory factors and include a cost analysis, environmental impact assessment, and consultation with relevant agencies. The findings must be submitted to the Legislature, and if the project is deemed viable and funding is secured, the Authority may proceed with development. Alternative recommendations must be provided if the project is not viable.

BR24-1413/December 16, 2024/KEH