



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

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



dpnr.vi.gov

Office of the Commissioner

July 10, 2026

The Honorable Kurt Violet
Chair, Committee on Education &
Workforce Development
36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

via email: senatorviolet@legvi.org

**RE: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
STATUS UPDATE ON DPNR PERMITS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Dear Senator Violet,

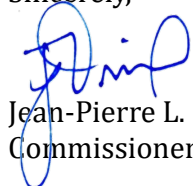
Thank you for your invitation to testify at the Committee on Education and Workforce Development hearing scheduled for July 14, 2026. I will be leaving the territory on July 14, and unfortunately will not be able to attend the hearing. Per your request, please find attached a spreadsheet of projects for the Department of Education showing the current status of each project.

To date, the Department of Planning & Natural Resources (DPNR), division of Permits has issued 8 permits to the Department of Education for work at various schools. The facility the furthest along is the Arthur A. Richards middle school, which the final inspection is scheduled for July 15, 2026. The St. Croix Educational Complex, the St. Croix Central High School and the Charlotte Amalie High School have all started construction; the Lockhart K-8 School, Yvonne Miliner-Bowsky School and the Bertha Boschulte School have permits, but we have not been notified that capital repairs have started. The St. John K-12 school has an approved Federal Consistency Determination, but the final plans have not yet been submitted for review and approval to the Division of Permits. The Dept. of Education has completed the public hearings for the Claudio Markoe and Alexander Henderson schools, and the federal consistency decisions will be executed later this month.

With respect to school readiness for the 2026-2027 school year, school inspections have been set by the Bureau of School Construction & Maintenance for July 20 - July 23. Staff has been scheduled to participate to ensure code compliance is met for school reopenings on August 10, 2026.

Should you have any additional questions following your hearing on July 14, please feel free to contact me at (340) 643-6242, or by email at jp.oriol@dpnr.vi.gov.

Sincerely,



Jean-Pierre L. Oriol
Commissioner