Government of the United States Virgin Islands

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For Immediate Release:

VIEO Updates Net Energy Billing program by deferring Grid Access Charge

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS— The Virgin Islands Energy Office (VIEO) in partnership with VIWAPA and DPNR have worked diligently in alignment with the Bryan/Roach administration's vision to create a sustainable distributed energy industry within the territory. Thus far, community engagement with the Net Energy Billing (NEB) program has been promising. Applications continue to be submitted and have navigated through the various stages of the permitting workflow.

During the last year of the Net Energy Billing (NEB) program's rollout, this collaborative multi-agency team has continued to seek out ways to improve program and the interaction the community has with the program. Earlier this summer the VIEO announced the use of Electrician Certification (EC) permit process to "Fast-Track" the permit process for new and existing installations. The VIEO would like to announce that the amnesty period relative to the EC permit process concludes on **February 1st 2022**. To take advantage of the expedited permitting process please submit applications using the VIEO's online permitting portal on energy.vi.gov.

In alignment with the Net Energy Billing programs goal to improve the grid & community's interaction with distributed generation the VIEO will like to announce, **that effective immediately**, the deferral of the Grid Access Charge (GAC) from the Net Energy Billing program. The initial inclusion of a Grid Access Charge (GAC) served to ensure that individual clients that invest in distributed generation continue to contribute to the utility's fixed infrastructure costs regardless of net excess monthly generation. The GAC was originally based on the installed system's nameplate size. This value was deemed fair and reasonable by all program development stakeholders to include the PSC. However, VIWAPA is currently undertaken a comprehensive Cost of Service study and Avoided Cost study. As a result, the decision has been made to defer assessing the GAC to distributed energy customers. The other aspects of the rate structure will remain the same to include the excess generation credit and non-monthly accrual of excess generation credits.

The VIEO would like to remind unregistered distributed energy stakeholders that the Net Energy Billing program is **NOT** a voluntary program. We expect all currently installed, non-Net Meter, and future grid-connected distributed energy installations to be registered within the program. The VIEO is available to schedule in office walk-throughs of the online permitting portal, and we invite installers, electricians, and property owners to call 340-713-8436 to schedule an appointment on St. Croix and St. Thomas.

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