

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 18, 2025

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., County Administrator 

SUBJECT: Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority (VPPSA) Follow-up

The Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority (VPPSA) is a regional governmental organization that provides solid waste management and recycling services to several localities in southeastern Virginia, including York County. During the County's FY 2026 budget process, VPPSA presented information on its governance, operations, and FY 2026 budget request. At that time—and again at a recent meeting—the Board requested follow-up information on several items, which is summarized below.

Citizen Material Drop-Off

The Board requested clarification on how VPPSA verifies the locality of origin for citizen drop-offs and how the corresponding tonnage is recorded. VPPSA advised staff check the residency of customers when they stop at the booth coming into compost. The attendant at the booth marks down the jurisdiction and load size (based on trailer size since there is no charge for residents of York, Poquoson, and Hampton). If a resident is not part of one of the participating jurisdictions they are charged based on the size of the truck bed and/or trailer, using standard averages. VPPSA considers this a reliable and efficient method for estimating tonnage without requiring vehicles to be weighed individually. (Note: Vehicles are not routed over scales due to operational and traffic flow limitations.)

Compost Facility Material Sales

The Board asked about discrepancies between the cubic yards of materials sold and the revenue reported from compost facility sales, as noted in the April 2025 VPPSA Board minutes. VPPSA advised that several factors contribute to the variation between sales volume and revenue:

- **Varied Pricing:** Different mulch products (e.g., regrinds, fines, colored mulch) are priced differently—ranging from \$14 to \$34 per cubic yard in FY 2025 (up from \$12–\$32 in the prior year). All mulch types are reported together, which affects average price calculations.
- **Discounted Sales:** VPPSA member localities (such as York County) and other entities may receive discounts on material purchases. These discounts are authorized by the VPPSA Board.
- **Free Material:** Member localities may also receive free mulch. These volumes are included in the cubic yards sold but generate no revenue.

As a result, total cubic yards sold include both discounted and free materials, which lowers the apparent revenue per unit. All outgoing tonnage is tracked per Department of

Environmental Quality (DEQ) requirements and reported through the Solid Waste Information and Assessment (SWIA) system for permitting purposes.

Recycling Contract with TFC

The Board also inquired about billing discrepancies with TFC Recycling, as discussed in the April 2025 VPPSA Board minutes. VPPSA began investigating billing inconsistencies in February 2025 and has since submitted multiple requests to TFC for supporting documentation, including log sheets and tonnage reports. During its internal audit, VPPSA discovered that TFC had been commingling recycling loads, collecting both residential and commercial recyclables which caused routing and billing errors affecting all participating localities, including York County.

While VPPSA initially withheld payment to TFC, the Board later authorized payment for the curbside pickup portion of the invoices to ensure uninterrupted recycling services, while continuing to dispute tonnage-related charges. VPPSA will continue to update participating localities as new information becomes available, and we will keep the Board informed accordingly.

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