



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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Authority Works to Manage Aging St. Croix Water Infrastructure

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) would like to provide the public with an update on potable water service on the island of St. Croix.

In recent weeks, there has been an increased amount of water loss due to outdated piping infrastructure throughout the island and faulty equipment at Richmond’s water pump station. In an effort to minimize the impact to customers, the Authority’s Water Maintenance Division has worked diligently to ensure water accessibility during peak usage time.

As immediate efforts to mitigate water loss continue, specific neighborhoods including Clifton Hill and Carlton may experience low pressure and little to no water service at times. As the territory moves into its peak dry season, customers’ water conservation efforts will be of great value, as the Authority works to ensure consistent water service.

As part of the Authority’s longer-term plan and solution, a prudent replacement grant was secured last year from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that will provide additional funding for the replacement of St. Croix’s antiquated water infrastructure and upgrade it to industry standards, dramatically benefitting customers. Additionally, several grant-funded neighborhood rehabilitation projects are already underway that will update current water infrastructure, alongside long-term plans to expand pipelines to reach underserved neighborhoods.

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About WAPA: The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is an autonomous agency of the Virgin Islands Government which produces and distributes electricity and drinking water to residential and commercial customers in the territory. WAPA was created by the Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands in 1964 through Act No. 1248. Today, WAPA generates electrical power at production plants on St. Thomas and St. Croix and distributes electrical service through smart grids to customers on St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Hassel Island, and Water Island. Potable water is distributed to almost 13,000 customers through water lines and standpipes. WAPA also has the responsibility of installing and maintaining streetlights.

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