

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY **CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS**

NEWS REL

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REPAVING OF FREDERIKSTED STREETS AND ROADWAYS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK AS WATER REHABILITATION PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

WAPA advises residents on the west end of St. Croix that its contractor, Leumas Engineering, will commence repaving streets and roadways in Frederiksted this week. Work will continue until all roads have been repaved and water service tie-in connections are completed.

The road repaving is the final phase of this water rehabilitation project that began in March 2020 and has succeeded in the installation of approximately 16,000 feet of new waterlines on the roadways and side streets of the west-end town. The new water system will bring enhanced water service and quality to residents while representing efficiency and reduced line loss for the Authority. The bulk of the work featured Leumas replacing decades old iron ductile water lines with new PVC piping.

"We recognize that this project brought levels of inconvenience to our customers and to Frederiksted residents, but we are pleased that the work is nearing an end and there will be notable improvements to the water quality and service reliability at completion," said Interim Executive Director Noel Hodge. Frederiksted residents have endured much, from road closures and rerouting of traffic as well as high volumes of dust, but, despite the challenges, we are excited about the progress we have made towards rehabilitation of the water delivery system to the west end of St. Croix. This has been a long-time coming, Hodge added.

A work schedule developed by the contractor calls for paving to begin on King Street this week followed in successive weeks by resurfacing work on Queen Street, Prince Street, Hospital Street, New Street, Queen Cross Street, Lagoon Street, Market Street and Hill Street. During the repaving, the contractor will finalize a few remaining service connections from mainlines to customer meter boxes.

WAPA anticipates the project being completed by May 31, 2021.

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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.