



**The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority
Corporate Communications
NEWS RELEASE**

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**WAPA BOARD APPROVES REPAIRS FOR ST. CROIX GENERATOR AND
CONVERSION OF A ST. THOMAS UNIT TO LPG FUEL;**

**PROJECTS WILL IMPROVE PLANT RELIABILITY ON ST. CROIX AND
REDUCE FUEL COSTS ON ST. THOMAS**

In an emergency meeting on Friday, the governing board approved repairs to a generating unit on St. Croix and the conversion of a leased generator on St. Thomas to burn lower cost propane fuel representing overall operational costs savings.

Repairs to St. Croix Unit 20 will ensure the availability of a reliable dual fuel twenty-megawatt unit to meet electrical demand and increase both power plant reliability and efficiency. The conversion of St. Thomas Unit 27 will allow the Randolph Harley Power Plant to be operated on 100% propane which will represent savings to both WAPA and its customers.

The board approved:

- An increase of an existing contract with Ethos Energy Group to \$1.1 million to cover costs of repairs to Unit 20, and a \$70,000 contingency should additional work be required to complete all repairs to the generator. Also approved was the purchase of equipment essential to the repairs at a cost not to exceed \$480,308.
- A contract addendum with General Electric (GE) to upgrade Unit 27 to operate on propane with existing LPG infrastructure at the Harley power plant. While the unit conversion will increase the monthly leased cost, operating the unit on LPG will reduce fuel costs, resulting in overall operational savings.

Board members present included: Chairman Anthony D. Thomas, Vice Chair Noel Loftus, Secretary Juanita Young, Cheryl Boynes Jackson, and Director Kyle Fleming. Director Joel Lee, Hubert Turnbull, Elizabeth Armstrong, and Jed JohnHope were excused.

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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.