



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

Contact: Jean P. Greaux, Jr., Director of Corporate Communications
340-774-3552 extension 2147 or 340-244-7330
communications@viwapa.vi / www.viwapa.vi

August 8, 2020

**ELECTRICAL FAULT ON ST. CROIX FEEDER 2A TRIPPED RICHMOND POWER PLANT
RESULTING IN MAJOR SERVICE INTERRUPTION SATURDAY MORNING**

Personnel at the Estate Richmond Power Plant on St. Croix have determined that an electrical fault resulting from downed service lines on Feeder 2A led to a shutdown of the plant, and for customers, an island-wide service interruption Saturday morning.

Chief Operating Officer of Electric System Clinton Hedrington, Jr. said the lines came down inside the footprint of the power plant where Feeder 2A originates. The downed lines caused an electrical fault, and the power plant's protection scheme tripped all online generators which resulted in the outage.

"The system operated as it should, it saw a major electrical fault, and the protection system tripped the generators to prevent damage to the units. We are continuing our assessment to determine whether scheduled grid maintenance on Feeders 2A and 3A earlier today contributed to the lines coming down. For right now, we made repairs and some other adjustments at both the plant and on the transmission system, and restored service to all customers," Hedrington said. He also reported that there were no injuries or other damage associated with the downed lines and subsequent outage.

The service interruption occurred at approximately 8:15a.m. restoration of service commenced at 10:35 a.m., and full restoration was achieved by 11:15 a.m.

###

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.