



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
NEWS RELEASE

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**WAPA ADVISES OF THE CLOSURE OF KING STREET ON ST. JOHN FROM
WEDNESDAY THROUGH DECEMBER 1ST**

**UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL PROJECT PROGRESSES THROUGH PORTIONS OF
CRUZ BAY**

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority advises the motoring public that King Street on St. John will be closed to vehicular traffic from November 10, 2021 – December 1, 2021. The road closure is necessary to facilitate ongoing work on an underground electrical project that extends from Frank Bay through Cruz Bay, ending at Mongoose Junction.

During this period, WAPA contractor, Haugland Energy, will complete excavations and install electrical conduits. Accommodations will be made for car rental agencies and other businesses who must access King Street. Motorists are asked to use alternate routes, comply with the directions of flaggers and to observe the directions on posted signs.

The St. John underground project will see the replacement of overhead electrical equipment with underground service to minimize damage from windstorms and ensure a more efficient post-storm service restoration. Similar projects are also underway on St. Croix and are being finalized for St. Thomas. The projects are part of a major transformation plan the Authority has established to enhance the electric system territory-wide. The plan calls for the undergrounding of electrical equipment, installation of more resilient composite poles, the addition of renewables such as solar and wind, the development of microgrids with battery storage and the acquisition, installation and commissioning of new and more efficient generation capacity at the WAPA power plants.

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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.