



the Current Connection

Vol 1. April - May 2021

Building a Brighter Future!



UNDERGROUNDING PROJECTS SET TO BEGIN ON ST. CROIX

A groundbreaking ceremony held on April 14 in Golden Grove on St. Croix signaled the commencement of work in another tier of WAPA's strategic transformation.

The undergrounding of electrical services, the installation of composite poles and the acquisition of new generation are part of a comprehensive effort to reshape the territory's

COMPOSITE POLE PROJECT UPDATES

The installation of composite poles is continuing at a steady pace with WAPA contractors deployed in both districts. The poles, which are more resilient in windstorms, are being installed in areas where it has been determined that the

undergrounding of electric equipment is not feasible. As of April 20th, 1,429 composite poles have been installed on St. Croix, 1,118 on St. John and 833 on St. Thomas. The project is approximately 42% complete. The scheduled completion date is March 2024.

electric system. Composite pole installation continues in both districts and new generators for the Randolph Harley Power Plant are in the manufacturing stages. When this multi-faceted work is completed in five to seven years, our customers will enjoy a state-of-the-art grid that has greater capacity to withstand the worst of major windstorms and allows for a more

The first three underground projects will address the need for key critical facilities on St. Croix to be quickly restored following a major weather event. These facilities include the container port on the island's south shore, Central High School, electrical equipment critical to the operation of four feeders that provide service from mid-island to the



WILFRED "BOMBA" ALLICK PORT & TRANSHIPMENT CENTER

Contractor: J. Benton Construction Inc.
Cost: \$2,528,500.00

timely and efficient restoration of service. With the completion of these projects, everyday service reliability will also be greatly enhanced.

west end, the Golden Grove community, police facilities, Golden Grove Correctional Facility and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. When this phase of territorial undergrounding work is complete, WAPA will

address the provision of underground electrical services to additional critical



ESTATE GOLDEN GROVE

Contractor: VIVOT
Cost: \$1,704,862.00

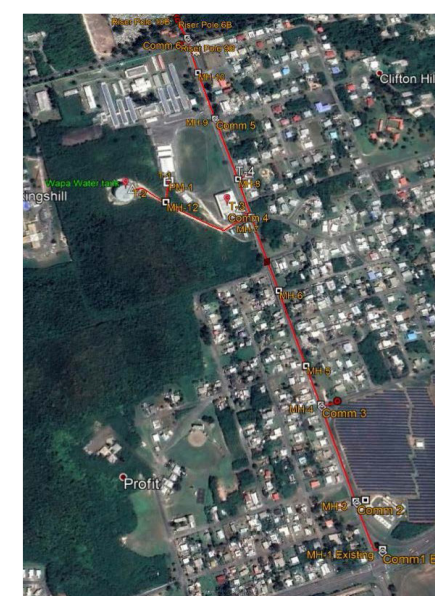
facilities, highly populated residential areas and commercial customers on the island.

The groundbreaking is the beginning of a massive program to place half of the Authority's transmission and distribution circuits underground. Undergrounding projects are being designed for each island and where undergrounding is not feasible, composite poles will be installed.

Our electric generating resources are in the midst of a historic transition from extreme dependency on costly fuel oil and a low contribution from renewable resources to a modernized fleet of generating resources. WAPA has already installed 21 megawatts of new generation that

powers the St. Thomas - St. John district each day. When the generation overhaul is complete, WAPA will have about 90 megawatts of highly efficient generation capacity. The new units will be dual-fuel capable and run almost exclusively on cleaner and less costly propane. Even more significant, WAPA will gradually integrate

over 50 megawatts of solar and wind capacity coupled with battery energy storage systems. Eventually, the territory will obtain over 50% of its electric energy from renewable resources.



ESTATE MIDLAND

Contractor: VI Paving Inc.
Cost: \$2,956,046.00

STAFF APPOINTMENTS



NOEL HODGE
Interim Executive Director

In early March, a leadership transition team was named in the aftermath of the separation of employees in key senior leadership positions in order to ensure a smooth transition to permanent leadership. Mr. Noel Hodge was tapped as Interim Executive Director / CEO. He has served as Chief Operating Officer of the Water System since 2016.

The other transition team members include Vernon Alexander, Interim COO Electric Systems; Don Gregoire, Interim COO Water Systems; Joan Foy, Acting Chief Administrative Officer; Ashley Bryan, Interim Director, Transmission & Distribution; Odari Thomas, Interim Director, Special Projects; Akeyla Christian, Interim Director of Disaster Recovery, Pricing & Rates and Strategic Planning; Marquis Mc Gregor, Interim Manager, System Planning.

LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY 2021

As part of the observance of National Lineman Appreciation Day, Director Hodge recognized the efforts of WAPA's Line Department personnel with meet and greet events in both districts on Friday, April 16, 2021.



Interim Director Noel Hodge addressing St. Croix Linemen, Linemen Appreciation Day



St. Thomas Linemen with Interim Director Noel Hodge, for Linemen Appreciation Day

During each event, the linemen were recognized for their efforts in serving the community daily and were given the opportunity to voice their concerns to Director Hodge in one-on-one discussions. Tokens of appreciation were distributed as were light snacks and refreshments. Director Hodge was joined at the events by T&D Interim Director Ashley Bryan and Line Department supervisors.



the Pipeline

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WATER REHAB: FEDRIKSTED REPAVING

WAPA contractor, Leumas Engineering, has begun repaving roadways in Frederiksted as well as performing final water service tie-in connections. These are the remaining phases of the project which saw installation of approximately 16,000 feet of new waterlines.

The project began in March 2020 and should be completed by the end of May.

The new pipelines will bring enhanced water service and quality to residents while representing efficiency and reduced line loss for WAPA. The project

featured the replacement of old iron ductile water lines with PVC piping.



Road resurfacing work began on April 20 on King Street and will be followed by work on Queen Street, Prince Street, Hospital Street, New Street, Queen Cross Street, Lagoon Street, Market Street and Hill Street. During the repaving, Leumas will finalize remaining service connections from the mainlines to customer meters.



WATER SAFETY AWARD CEREMONY

On March 5, Interim Director Hodge hosted a brief ceremony to recognize accomplishments of the St. Croix Water Distribution Department. The department received the Safety Compliance Award for 2020.

The department maintained acceptable safety standards and lost zero time from injuries between January 9, 2020 and February 9, 2021. In addition, in April, the St. Croix Drinking Water Lab received its provisional one-year certification.



Interim Director Noel Hodge at Recognition Ceremony for members of the St. Croix Water Distribution Department



The continued certification is contingent upon the laboratory's successful analysis of water supply proficiency test samples over the course of the specified certification period. Congrats to the St. Croix Water Team!!

LOOKING AHEAD WATER DEPARTMENT

Through federal funding provided by FEMA and HUD, the Water System will undertake twelve expansion projects in both districts. On St. Croix, the projects include Estate Strawberry and Barren Spot waterline extension, waterline rehabilitation projects in Estate Concordia to Kingshill, Estate Richmond



to Concordia, Contentment to Kingshill and in Kingshill East and Kingshill West. On St. Thomas, the projects include

phase two of the Anna's Retreat waterline extension and waterline extensions in Smith Bay, Frydendahl, Nazareth, Bolongo and Wintberg. There is also funding for slope stabilization.