



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

(340) 774-3552 • communications@viwapa.vi / www.viwapa.vi

September 18, 2023

ST. THOMAS/ST. JOHN ROTATIONAL OUTAGE SCHEDULE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023					
1 AM - 3 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeder 7E - OFF• Feeder 7C - OFF• Feeder 9E - ON• Feeder 7B - ON	3 AM - 5 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeder 10B - OFF• Feeder 9C - OFF• Feeder 7E - ON• Feeder 7C - ON	5 AM - 7 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeder 7B - OFF• Feeder 9E - OFF• Feeder 10B - ON• Feeder 9C - ON	7 AM - 9 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeder 7E - OFF• Feeder 7C - OFF• Feeder 9E - ON• Feeder 7B - ON	9 AM - 11 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeder 10B - OFF• Feeder 9C - OFF• Feeder 7E - ON• Feeder 7C - ON	11 AM - 1 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeder 7B - OFF• Feeder 9E - OFF• Feeder 10B - ON• Feeder 9C - ON
1 PM - 3 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeder 7E - OFF• Feeder 7C - OFF• Feeder 9E - ON• Feeder 7B - ON	3 PM - 5 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeder 10B - OFF• Feeder 9C - OFF• Feeder 7E - ON• Feeder 7C - ON	5 PM - 7 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeder 7B - OFF• Feeder 9E - OFF• Feeder 10B - ON• Feeder 9C - ON	7 PM - 9 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeder 7E - OFF• Feeder 7C - OFF• Feeder 9E - ON• Feeder 7B - ON	9 PM - 11 PM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeder 10B - OFF• Feeder 9C - OFF• Feeder 7E - ON• Feeder 7C - ON	11 PM - 1 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feeder 7B - OFF• Feeder 9E - OFF• Feeder 10B - ON• Feeder 9C - ON

* Rotation schedule is subject to change depending on load demand.

Stay Connected
www.viwapa.vi @VIWAPA

Rotation schedule for the St. Thomas/St. John district on Monday, September 18, 2023.

Authority Provides Clarification on Scheduled Rotational Power Outages

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) would like to provide an update to the community regarding the rotational power outages that have been affecting residents in the St. Thomas and St. John districts. These temporary electrical service interruptions are a result of complications that occurred when Authority personnel conducted repairs over the weekend to a main transmission line feeding power from the Randolph Harley Power Plant to customers primarily on the eastern side of St. Thomas and St. John.

During construction work on Saturday, September 16, 2023, a duct bank, which is a concrete or metal container used for protecting utility lines and cables was punctured, and the electrical cable inside the duct bank was damaged. The cable that was punctured is a primary cable that is part of Feeder 13 which delivers power from the Randolph Harley Power Plant to the Tutu Substation. To better understand the reason why this is causing a widespread impact starts with understanding how WAPA’s transmission system works.

WAPA’s power generation begins at the Randolph Harley Power Plant (RHPP) on St. Thomas. After electricity is generated, it is funneled through the RHPP substation for distribution to customers that reside on the “A” feeders and the remaining electricity is commuted over two major active transmission feeders—Feeder 12 and Feeder 13 to serve the balance of the customers in the St. Thomas/St. John

District. Feeder 12 transports power from RHPP to the Donald C. Francois (DCF) Substation, while Feeder 13 (currently damaged) is responsible for delivering power from RHPP to the Tutu Substation. These substations then distribute power to smaller secondary feeders, such as 10B and 9C, which ultimately supply electricity to homes and businesses. There is a third transmission line, Feeder 11 which would normally be used as an additional source of transmission to the DCF substation, however, due to damage to the substation from the storms of 2017, Feeder 11 is currently offline and cannot support distribution of power from RHPP to customers.

With Feeder 13 currently out of service due to damage sustained in the field, WAPA has been forced to rely solely on Feeder 12 to support the bulk of the electrical load of the district, with the exception of distribution feeders that originate at RHPP, such as Feeder 7A. Feeder 12 does not have the capacity to meet the demands of all the remaining customers that are serviced outside of the Power Plant, resulting in the need for power rotations. This is the reason why residents are only seeing rotations for “B, C, and E” Feeders, as these are the feeders that are currently being serviced by Feeder 12 while Feeder 13 is being repaired.

The dedicated team at WAPA has been working tirelessly to repair Feeder 13. Despite ongoing efforts, Feeder 13 continues to trip, indicating that there is additional damage that still needs to be identified. At present, the exact location of this damage remains unknown. Until Feeder 13 is fully repaired, the community should anticipate an ongoing power rotation schedule, as Feeder 12 cannot bear the entire load of both islands.

The Authority understands the frustration and inconvenience that these outages are causing our customers, and sincerely appreciates the patience and understanding demonstrated by the community during this challenging period.

WAPA will continue to provide updates regarding the progress of these repairs. For the fastest information and updates, please ensure you are subscribed to WAPA alerts or sign up at: <https://www.viwapa.vi/news-information/advisory-details> or customers can download the Everbridge App. Information can also be found on our website at www.viwapa.vi and social media platforms at @USVIWAPA on Facebook and on Twitter @VIWAPA. See QR code below for YouTube video providing press release overview:



The rotation schedule for St. Thomas and St. John is as follows:

Rotation #1 (5am-7am)

Outage: 7B & 9E

Restored: 10B & 9C

Rotation #1 (11am-1pm)

Outage: 7B & 9E

Restored: 10B & 9C

Rotation #2 (7am-9am):

Outage - 7E & 7C

Restored - 9E & 7B

Rotation #2 (1pm-3pm):

Outage - 7E & 7C

Restored - 9E & 7B

Rotation #3 (9am-11am):

Outage - 10B & 9C

Restored - 7E & 7C

Rotation #3 (3pm-5pm):

Outage - 10B & 9C

Restored - 7E & 7C

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Communication's department is committed to reaching, informing, and connecting with the youngest members of the community to the eldest, through meaningful, transparent and effective communication.

###

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.

(340) 774-3552 (STT/STJ) • (340) 773-2250 (STX) |  Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority |  @VIWAPA