



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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Extended Water Sampling on St. Croix Scheduled Thursday-Sunday

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) would like to notify the public that ongoing efforts to combat brown water on St. Croix continue. Beginning today, September 28th through Sunday, October 1st, 2023, the Authority in collaboration with the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) will be conducting the extended water sampling plan. As part of this plan, sixty-five (65) sample locations have been identified across the island. These sampling locations include the primary and secondary location areas that have been impacted by brown water.

The sampling will occur at accessible meters from 6:00am-3:00pm and does not require assistance or additional access from customers. The Authority is asking the community to be mindful of vehicles parked alongside the road and agents in safety vests who will be collecting samples.

The priority locations in St. Croix that will have extended water sampling are:

- William’s Delight
- Estate LaGrange
- White Lady
- Grove Fire Station
- Whim Inside
- Mon Bijou
- Catherine’s Rest
- Mount Pleasant
- Tide Village
- Louis E. Brown
- Strand Street
- Hannah’s Rest
- Estate Strawberry
- Sion Farm
- Croixville Apartments
- La Grande Princess

The additional sampling results will provide a baseline study of what levels of iron, metals, pH, chlorine, and bacteria are present in the system at distinct locations across St. Croix. The data will further assist the Authority with determining the quality of water in localized areas experiencing brown water and provide recommendations on water use.

The EPA UVI and WAPA labs are expected to have results in 2-3 weeks following the sampling. At that time, the Authority and DPNR will review the results and provide updates to the community.

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.

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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.