



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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

WAPA Urges Community Cooperation for Critical Grid Improvement Projects



Image: The black line indicates the area along the roadway to the Donald Francois Substation.

ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (September 4, 2024) – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or the “Authority”) is committed to improving the reliability and resilience of our electrical grid. As part of ongoing efforts, significant work is scheduled at the Donald Francois Substation that will require access by our heavy equipment and crews. We kindly ask for the public’s cooperation in ensuring these projects can proceed without delay.

On **Friday, September 6, 2024, between 8 AM and 5 PM**, bucket trucks will need to access the roadway leading to the Francois Substation to install new utility poles. To facilitate this, we request that all vehicles currently parked along the roadway be moved during this time. Weather permitting, this work will enhance our grid infrastructure, and your assistance in keeping the roadway clear is greatly appreciated.

Additionally, throughout **September**, similar measures will be necessary for residents of the Paul M. Pearson community. On specified dates, vehicles will need to be relocated temporarily to allow trailers carrying essential equipment to enter the substation. These deliveries are part of the Donald Francois Substation FEMA Mitigation Project, a vital initiative aimed at strengthening our power system against future natural disasters.

We understand the inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your continued support and understanding as we work to provide a more reliable and resilient power supply for our community. WAPA remains dedicated to keeping you informed and engaged as we undertake these critical improvements.

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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.