



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Confirms Two Gas Leaks Safely Contained at Randolph Harley Power Plant Today

ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (Sept. 8, 2025) – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA) confirms that a gas leak was safely detected and contained at approximately 9:00 a.m. today, with a second leak occurring at the Randolph Harley Power Plant on St. Thomas around 11:00 a.m. The second leak delayed restoration but was also safely contained.

The plant's emergency shutdown system activated as intended, and all personnel were evacuated per safety protocols for both occurrences. The team successfully vented the gas from the facility, preventing any risk of fire or explosion. There were no injuries, no environmental damage, and no danger to the public.

As a precaution, several generating units were taken offline earlier today following the detection of the leak, including Wärtsilä Phase I and Phase II units, resulting in reduced capacity at the power plant. Several feeders were impacted throughout the day as energy needs could not be met for the entire district. Following the second leak, WAPA plant personnel ensured all safety measures were followed before bringing the units back online and restoring service to impacted customers.

"Safety guided every step of our response to the gas leaks this morning," said WAPA CEO and Executive Director Karl Knight. "Our crew carefully followed protocols to protect our team and customers before restoration began."

Separately, approximately 1,087 customers on a portion of Feeder 7A experienced an extended outage due to a pole fire earlier this morning. Line crews completed repairs and isolated the outage but were unable to restore customers immediately due to the reduced generation capacity at the power plant.

As of approximately 6:00 p.m., all feeders were restored and are expected to remain stable throughout the evening peak with the operating units and the support of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the plant. While two units are undergoing repairs, normal operations are still anticipated tomorrow.

WAPA sincerely thanks the St. Thomas–St. John community for its patience and support during what has been a challenging few days of unexpected maintenance repairs. Our teams continue to work diligently to maintain reliable service during peak energy hours, and we want to reassure customers that every action taken has been guided by safety and care for the community.

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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.