



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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Feeder 7E Cruz Bay Underground Project Update

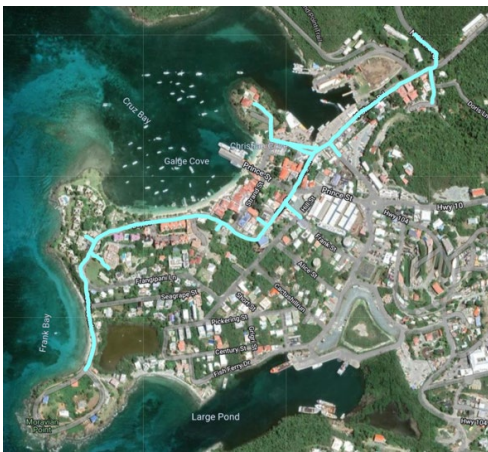


Figure 1: Highlighted line represents undergrounding service area.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – As the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) works to continually fortify the territory’s electrical grid, recent progress on St. John’s Feeder 7E Cruz Bay Underground Project highlights forward momentum.

Feeder 7E Cruz Bay Undergrounding Project began March 2021, with 90% of its funding from Federal Emergency Management Agency, and 10% provided by Department of Housing and Urban Development. The primary phase of the undergrounding project which includes all civil and electrical work up to the transformer, was just completed this month, after being temporarily delayed last year due to the discovery of archaeological remains that required analysis and careful extraction. The secondary phase of the project which will encompass all civil and electrical work from the transformer to the customer’s meter is expected to begin in 2023.

Undergrounding is the process of replacing the overhead electrical infrastructure that is typically connected by poles at specific intervals, to below ground and pad mounted infrastructure. Transferring the Authority’s electrical grid underground is a pivotal step in improving the resilience and reliability of the utility. “Historically, after major storms and hurricanes, downed poles and compromised electrical lines have resulted in power restoration being delayed by months. Undergrounding will contribute to improved grid dependability for Virgin Islands residents, particularly during inclement weather,” noted Cordell Jacobs, Interim Transmission and Distribution Director at the Authority.

Feeder 7E Cruz Bay Underground Project will benefit approximately 500 customers including Gallows Point, Mongoose Junction, U.S. Customs, Emergency Health Services, Downtown Cruz Bay, and National Park Services. See highlighted lines on map above depicting the project’s service area.

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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.