



# THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE

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*Figure 1: Electricians attend the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority's Electrician Meet event on June 15, 2023, at UVI's Research & Technology Park - Albert Sheen Campus on St. Croix.*

## **Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Hosts Successful Electrician's Meet on St. Croix**

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) hosted a well-attended Electrician's Meet last week Thursday, June 15, 2023, with over 50 electricians on St. Croix in attendance. With an emphasis on sharing knowledge, expertise, and the latest WAPA updates, the event aimed to bring together all electricians who play a crucial role in servicing customers’ electrical needs on St. Croix.

The 3-hour session consisted of presentations by the Authority’s Design & Construction, System Planning, Automation/Meter Services/Dispatch, Customer Service, Line and Revenue Assurance/Audit Departments. Among topics covered, the Authority’s Line Department discussed the territory’s primary voltage and wire services. Customer Service touched on WAPA’s rates, roles and responsibilities, the service reconnection process, and the workflow of services and electrician-related services. Revenue Protection reviewed the guidelines as it relates to preventing meter tampering and ensuring an accurate read. Lastly, Design and Construction provided key information surrounding the requirements for electrical service and the drawing submittal process.

In addition to the formal presentation, attendees were able to connect with their peers and Authority representatives to further discuss the latest industry standards and ever-evolving electrical landscape in the Virgin Islands, including relevant information from an Energy Office representative, and

communication inquiries from the Fire Department. The Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs also provided a takeaway with requirements for licensing.

"As the Authority continues to work towards a more sustainable and efficient energy future in the territory, we want to prioritize events like the Electrician's Meet where we can share new updates, enhance our professional network, and offer interested electricians the opportunity to be a part of WAPA's progressive mission," noted Shanell Petersen, Director of Corporate Communications collaboration.

"We were extremely pleased with the turnout and T&D looks forward to organizing similar events in the future to further empower and support the electrical workforce of St. Croix," stated Cordell Jacobs, Acting Director of Transmission and Distribution "The efforts from the participating departments were well-received and the electricians within the community were enthused to have received clarification and updates from the Authority., added Acting Director Jacobs.

More information will be provided at a later date on the Electrician's Meet scheduled for St. Thomas.

*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.

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