



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS PRESS STATEMENT

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WAPA PROVIDES CORRECTION ON TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON DISASTER RECOVERY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING ON OCT. 16

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (Oct. 22, 2025) – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA) wishes to clarify recent statements regarding the estimated \$11 billion in disaster-related damages from Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Contrary to earlier reports, the \$11 billion figure does **not** represent damages sustained by WAPA alone. This estimate comes from a comprehensive federal report published on Nov. 11, 2020, by the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit research organization. The report, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security, details the total damages across the entire U.S. Virgin Islands, including public infrastructure, private property, utilities, healthcare, and housing.

WAPA also wants to reassure the public that FEMA's funding is sufficient to cover the damages the Authority sustained during the hurricanes. These funds are being used to strengthen the electrical grid and build a more resilient energy system for the territory.

As shared during recent Senate testimony on Oct. 16, 2025, WAPA is on track to responsibly use these funds in accordance with federal requirements. Thanks to our ongoing partnership with FEMA, the Authority is making steady progress toward restoring and modernizing energy services for all Virgin Islanders.

WAPA regrets any confusion caused by previous misstatements and remains committed to transparency, accountability, and keeping the public informed.

We appreciate your continued support as we work to power a stronger, more sustainable future for the Virgin Islands.

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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.