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Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority

PWS ID: VI0000097 | Location: U.S. Virgin Islands

Date: June 22, 2025

What Happened:

Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) are byproducts of drinking water disinfection. EPA has established a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 0.080 mg/L (80 parts per billion) for TTHMs, calculated as a locational running annual average (LRAA) at each sampling location.

On June 11, 2025 during the 2nd monitoring period of 2025, our system recorded an LRAA value at one location, Sample point 088 on the East End Road, that exceeded this limit with a value of .091mg/L. The exceedance was confirmed through compliance monitoring required under 40 CFR Part 141.

TTHMs are formed when residual disinfection comes in contact with organic materials. Another factor that affects the level of dis-infectant byproducts is the water age, or rather the amount of time the water sits in the pipes. When water is not consumed or used at the same rate that it is being produced the water will remain still in the pipes. In areas where many of the residents use cistern water is especially susceptible to elevated disinfectant byproduct levels. This effect is compounded when these areas are in the vicinity of a dead end or the furthest point away from the water distribution source.

What Does This Mean:

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing TTHMs in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What Should I Do:

- You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water).
- If you have specific health concerns—particularly if you are elderly, pregnant, have infants, or a compromised immune system—you may wish to consult your health care provider.

What is Being Done:

WAPA is actively working to reduce TTHM levels. Measures being taken include:

- System flushing to remove older water from the distribution system
- Optimization of disinfection processes
- Evaluation of system design and operational adjustments

We will continue to monitor the water and implement changes as necessary to return to compliance and maintain water quality.

Contact: Communications@VIWAPA.VI