

## THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS NEWS RELEASE Normi K. Gumbs

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## Fuel Clarification Regarding Propane and Diesel Supply

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – During this morning's press briefing at Government House, the Authority provided a status update to the community and highlighted that propane supply was temporarily interrupted this morning on St. Croix, and as a result, St. Croix was operating on an existing 3-day inventory of remaining diesel. Limited diesel inventory is primarily because the Authority does not normally burn diesel on St. Croix and with the Authority's stressed financial situation, maintaining large reserves is financially challenging and impractical.

Following the Governor's press briefing, propane service was restored shortly before 10 am on the island of St. Croix, and the Authority has immediately resumed to burning propane instead of diesel. In the event there was a need to continue burning diesel, options to expedite a delivery of diesel or trucking diesel to the plant would have been proactively explored, as the Authority has previously done when propane supply chain issues have arisen.

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority would like to remind the community to stay safe as inclement weather associated with Tropical Storm Fiona continues to pass through the territory. The Authority would further like to extend tremendous thanks to its line crew, plant crew and entire WAPA team for their hard work to maintain and restore electricity to customers.

## Please note: A recorded audio update from CEO Smith is also attached to this press release email.

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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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