



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
NEWS RELEASE

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Authority Announces Improved Facilities for Lineworkers with new HQ

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “Authority”) is pleased to announce additional cost saving accomplishments and improved working conditions, with the official relocation of the St. Thomas Line Department to its new headquarters at Market Square East.

The Line Department’s move to Market Square East has been a long time in the making and represents an upgrade in working conditions for employees, additional square footage and a hefty savings of \$22,000 monthly for the Authority. Lineworkers and employees gathered last week to officially launch the new operations space with a team-building kickoff event. The well-attended event provided the opportunity to see firsthand the progressive changes being implemented, as the Authority continues to balance cost savings and employee needs. The next phase is to focus on a home-based facility for the lineworkers in St. Croix.

“The move from Bolongo to Market Square East is one of many steps the Authority is taking, as we work to streamline our operational structure and improve efficiency,” notes Don Gregoire, Interim Chief Administrative Officer at the Authority. The new location will offer much-needed office space for members of the Transmission & Distribution team, in addition to a generous amount of flat terrain to safely house Authority vehicles.

“When we examine our strategic plan holistically, there are multiple components that go into its success. Ensuring our employees have good working conditions is a priority for management, and we work diligently to meet those needs, while ensuring we remain in alignment with the strategic financial goals of our organization. The move to Market Square East was an opportunity for the Authority to capitalize on both positive outcomes,” notes CEO and Executive Director Andrew Smith.

Much of the build-out of the facility, almost 90%, was done in-house utilizing the skills and experience of WAPA personnel across different departments. This was essential to the cost savings strategy of the new headquarters for lineworkers. “Being able to see this project completed is very fulfilling. I am proud to be able to assist the linemen with the building of this new facility,” said Felix Jarvis, Building and Grounds Supervisor.

CEO Smith further elaborated, “I often discuss this sense of “family” that exists at the Authority. Seeing the team join together to bring this project to fruition really demonstrates our employees commitment to one another and this organization. I would like to thank all the individuals who worked long hours for weeks on end to ensure the completion of our new headquarters. Your hard work is deeply appreciated and valued.”

“This building is a tremendous upgrade from our previous location. I feel truly blessed to be in this new space,” echoed Coral Felix-Faulkner, Administrative Assistant, alongside her colleague, Elizabeth Dennis, Administrative Assistant.



WAPA Employees affix department banner to railing.



New Line Department Headquarters at Market Square East.

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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