



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

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**WAPA Addresses Outage in St. Thomas-St. John District Following Unit 23 Repairs**

ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (March 6, 2025) – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or the “Authority”) successfully restored service to all feeders in the St. Thomas-St. John district after Unit 23 was removed for emergency repairs yesterday morning.

On Friday, during a brief outage, Unit 23 experienced significant vibration, leading to fractures in its fuel lines. Plant personnel worked through the early hours and over the weekend to address the fractures while keeping the unit online. However, one of the fractures required the immediate removal of Unit 23 from service for necessary repairs on Wednesday morning.

Crews worked diligently throughout the day to restore the fuel line and return the unit to operation as soon as possible. At approximately 8:35 PM, Unit 23 was successfully brought back online, restoring service to all affected customers.

Lemuel Lavinier, Chief Operating Officer, WAPA, assured the public that the Authority is taking proactive measures to prevent similar incidents. “We are actively addressing deferred maintenance on our legacy units, including Unit 27 to improve system reliability. Additionally, we are prioritizing the restoration of our Wartsila units by expediting shipment of parts through private chartering rather than commercial shipping, reducing the overall restoration time.”

WAPA appreciates the patience of its customers and remains dedicated to strengthening the reliability of the electrical system. For updates, follow WAPA on social media or visit [www.viwapa.vi](http://www.viwapa.vi).

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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.