



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
PRESS STATEMENT

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WAPA Updates on 2023 Fuel Oil Release Incident

U.S. Virgin Islands (April 25, 2025) – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or the “Authority”) wishes to provide an update regarding the fuel oil release incident that occurred in late 2023. Swift initial recovery efforts successfully removed a mixture of water and fuel oil, which was processed through WAPA’s on-site oil-water separator system in accordance with environmental safety protocols. The total amount of No. 2 fuel oil released into the environment is estimated at approximately 4,900 gallons.

While the Authority await the final documentation from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), it is important to note that substantial cleanup operations were completed by May 2024, with additional long-term mitigation measures finalized last month.

As part of WAPA’s ongoing dedication to environmental protection, the Authority has since upgraded its oil management infrastructure, including the installation of new containment catchments strategically positioned to prevent potential future releases.

To date, water quality testing and shoreline inspections indicate no further environmental impact. WAPA personnel continue to perform daily monitoring and maintenance of catchment systems and surrounding areas to safeguard public health and the local ecosystem.

“We understand the concerns this incident raised for our community and our environment,” said Karl Knight, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority. “My team alongside our local and federal partners have assured me that from day one, the priority has been to contain, clean up, and strengthen our systems to prevent future occurrences.”

WAPA remains dedicated to transparency, accountability, and the protection of our community’s natural resources.

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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.