



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WATER & POWER AUTHORITY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS PRESS STATEMENT

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INCIDENT AT RANDOLPH HARLEY POWER PLANT CLEARED WITHIN 20 MINUTES

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (May 13, 2025) –The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or the “Authority”) confirms that earlier today, an incident occurred at the Randolph Harley Power Plant involving the unplanned atmospheric venting of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) through its designated vent, during routine maintenance activities on the Wartsila Phase II units.

Atmospheric venting is a standard activity performed before the maintenance of fuel lines, and passes through pipes located at a safe distance, where hazards are mitigated and risk to personnel is minimal.

In accordance with WAPA’s standard safety protocols, the plant was temporarily evacuated and cleared for reentry within 20 minutes. This action was initiated after a visible vapor plume was observed in the designated venting area by security personnel. It is important to note that this venting area is specifically designed and permitted for such releases during maintenance operations.

The LPG venting, which was momentary and involved what is believed to be an insignificant volume, was safely controlled without incident. There was no risk to the public, no injuries reported, and no disruption to the electrical service for our customers.

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority remains dedicated to reviewing its procedures to prioritize the safety of its employees, the community, and the reliable operation of its facilities.

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.