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WAPA Reports on St. Croix Restoration and Ongoing Generating Unit Repairs in the St. Thomas-St. John District

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (Nov. 25, 2026) – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority ("WAPA" or "the Authority") provided its Board of Directors with updates today on the repairs of the propane terminal on St. Croix and the status of generating equipment at the Randolph Harley Power Plant on St. Thomas.

The meeting provided an overview of the circumstances that led to the extended interruption on St. Croix, the steps taken to preserve the island's remaining diesel fuel supply, and the progress to complete equipment inspections and return additional generating units to service in the St. Thomas-St. John district.

St. Croix: Propane terminal operational; fuel replenishment underway

WAPA reported that the extended interruption on St. Croix followed a failure of a control panel at the propane terminal operated by Saintnals. The failure prevented the Authority from using propane to operate its generating units, including the Aggreko units, requiring a shift to diesel generation.

A technician traveled from San Juan to assist with replacing the faulty panel. WAPA also deployed two engineers and an electrician to work alongside Saintnals' maintenance personnel.

As uncertainty surrounding the repair continued, the Authority made the decision to reduce the number of operating generators to conserve its limited diesel inventory. At one point, the island was operating with only one generating unit, resulting in the extensive interruption experienced by customers. With the support from the three solar farms on St. Croix, many customers remained with solar powered energy throughout the day.

Following the replacement of the faulty panel, the propane terminal was returned to operation. This allowed WAPA to bring propane-operated generation online and begin restoring service to customers. Power was restored across the island by approximately 11:30 p.m. Tuesday.

WAPA continues to truck diesel from the refinery to replenish its inventory. The Authority reported that approximately 1,300 barrels remained at the time of the meeting, representing less than one day of supply at full generation levels.

Under normal operating conditions, St. Croix relies primarily on propane, with diesel used during peak demand periods. The terminal failure required substantially greater diesel consumption, accelerating the depletion of available inventory. The Authority is increasing trucking deliveries to rebuild its reserve toward its target of maintaining a five-day fuel cushion for emergency situations.

WAPA also acknowledged the financial pressures associated with maintaining diesel inventory, particularly as fuel prices have increased significantly during 2026. WAPA reported that diesel prices, which were approximately $2 per gallon at the beginning of the year, reached more than $5 per gallon in September and remain above $4 per gallon, not including transportation costs.

Alongside replenishing fuel supplies, WAPA will conduct an after-action review of the terminal failure, including the emergency shutdown system and control panel. A preliminary report is expected within 48 hours to provide additional information on what occurred and how similar failures may be prevented.

WAPA CEO and Executive Director Karl Knight also addressed the importance of strengthening the working relationship between WAPA and Saintnals, particularly regarding maintenance coordination, technical support and operational preparedness.

“Of course, the customers are ours, and the responsibility lies with WAPA,” Knight told the Board, emphasizing WAPA's responsibility to its customers despite the failure occurring at the terminal operated on the Authority's behalf.

St. Thomas-St. John: Repair work advances at Randolph Harley Power Plant

The Board also received a detailed report from personnel at the Randolph Harley Power Plant regarding the status of unavailable generating equipment.

At the time of the meeting, three Phase I engines were producing approximately 18 megawatts collectively, below their combined potential output of approximately 21 megawatts. The engines are overdue for major maintenance inspections and overhauls.

Unit 27 was operating at approximately 21 megawatts. However, plant personnel explained that a portion of available capacity must be held in reserve to manage fluctuations and maintain system stability.

Several Wärtsilä units remain unavailable:

- **Wärtsilä 5:** Currently being reassembled, with plant personnel targeting completion by the weekend or Monday.
- **Wärtsilä 4:** Pending further inspection and evaluation. No restoration date has been established.
- **Wärtsilä 6:** Also awaiting inspection, with no confirmed return-to-service timeline.

WAPA's plant and technical teams are continuing inspection, evaluation and repair activities. Plant personnel emphasized that they cannot yet provide firm restoration dates for all unavailable units. Crews are working to reduce system pressures to allow repairs and inspections to proceed safely.

WAPA also reported that the Donoe solar farm was taken offline Monday following fluctuations that made it difficult to maintain required voltage and frequency standards with the limited generating equipment available to support the electrical system. Attempts to manage those fluctuations also contributed to several interruptions outside the scheduled rotation periods.

An additional development offers a more favorable outlook for Wärtsilä 7. Following an on-site assessment by a turbocharger specialist, Wärtsilä has indicated that refurbishing the existing turbocharger may significantly shorten the unit's previously anticipated four-month outage. The current target is to schedule the work for next month, with the expectation that the unit could become available sooner than originally anticipated.

Maintaining transparency and moving forward

Today's Board discussion underscored the importance of continued transparency as the Authority works through the immediate challenges affecting both districts.

WAPA recognizes that customers have experienced significant interruptions and that uncertainty surrounding restoration timelines adds to the frustration. While the work ahead remains substantial, the Authority is advancing several immediate priorities: rebuilding diesel reserves, completing generating-unit inspections and returning available equipment to service.

The Authority will continue to communicate developments as they are confirmed, including changes in equipment availability, fuel replenishment and operating conditions.

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