



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

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**WAPA Recognizes Lineworkers in Observance of National Lineman Appreciation Day**

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (April 18, 2026) – The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (“WAPA” or “the Authority”) is recognizing its lineworkers on National Lineman Appreciation Day, observed April 18, 2026, and honoring the critical role they play in keeping the territory powered.

WAPA line crews sustain the flow of electricity across the territory by maintaining infrastructure, responding to storm damage, and ensuring reliable service for homes, businesses, and critical operations. The Authority encourages the public to join in thanking them for their service, which supports every home, business, and essential service across the territory.

“The line workers are the backbone of WAPA’s system, showing up every day under challenging conditions to keep our communities powered,” said Lemuel Lavinier, Chief Operating Officer, Electric Systems of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority. “We deeply appreciate their skill, professionalism and commitment ensuring that even in the toughest moments, critical services remain online.”

The Authority also highlights the crews’ recent service beyond the territory, including two deployments to Jamaica to assist with restoration efforts following Hurricane Melissa. These deployments reflect strong technical capability and a continued dedication to regional resilience and cooperation.

Looking ahead, WAPA lineworkers are expected to participate in the 2026 CARILEC Lineworkers Symposium, scheduled for April 24–26, 2026, in Dominica. The annual event brings together several Caribbean utilities to participate in specialized training focused on strengthening operational standards and promoting best practices in linework safety.

*The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Communication’s department is committed to reaching, informing, and connecting with the youngest members of the community to the eldest, through meaningful, transparent and effective communication.*

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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.