

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Croix Faces Potable Water Shutdown in 36 Areas to Address Lead and Copper Concerns

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In response to recent findings of elevated levels of lead and copper, the V.I. Water and Power Authority commenced the flushing of potable water lines on Friday. The action targets 36 specific locations across St. Croix that were highlighted during the initial sampling from September 28-30.

The flushing process aims to prepare for a subsequent round of sampling, which is set to kick off early Saturday morning. This resampling initiative will see WAPA collaborating closely with the VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Due to these measures, St. Croix residents will experience a potable water service interruption that began on Friday and is expected to last until approximately 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Ahead of the water shutdown, affected customers received advisory letters on Thursday, WAPA said. These communications detailed the reasons for the action, highlighting the objective to pinpoint the sources of the lead and copper contaminants.

The USVI Joint Information Center has committed to keeping the community informed and will disseminate the results within the coming 1-2 weeks.

For those with health concerns arising from potential lead contamination in potable water or seeking information on lead testing, the Department of Health has made two hotlines available. Residents can reach out between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday at 340-712-6299 or 340-776-1519. Additionally, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources operates a dedicated hotline at 340-514-3666 during the same hours.