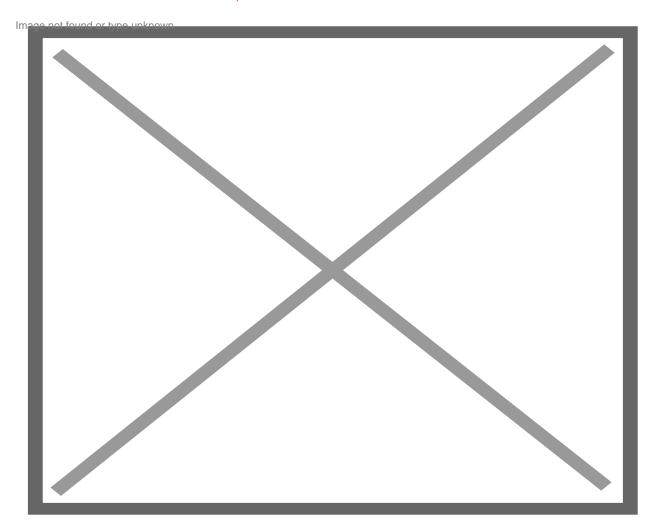
WAPA Urges Water Conservation on St. Croix as Final Repairs Move Toward Completion

WAPA asks STX residents to limit nonessential water use as final repairs progress, with restored power to the Seven Seas plant, temporary generation at Richmond, and ongoing work at pump stations needed to rebuild pressure and return service islandwide.

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The V.I. Water and Power Authority is urging St. Croix residents to conserve water as the utility nears completion of final repairs needed to restore full service following disruptions that began on Sunday, December 7. Many customers, particularly on the west end and in higher elevations, have continued to experience low pressure or no water, and WAPA says that community conservation is now essential to stabilizing the system.

With power restored to the Seven Seas Water Group facility and full production expected later on December 10, WAPA reports that islandwide service is close to returning to normal. The utility is asking customers to reduce nonessential water use, practice conservation, and, where possible, rely on cisterns for non-potable needs. Residents are also being advised not to fill cisterns or large containers with potable water at this time. WAPA says keeping water in the system will help rebuild pressure and move water toward customers who are still waiting for service, especially in the western portion of the island.

The utility acknowledged the difficulty residents have faced during the outage, stating, "We recognize how difficult this has been, and we are truly grateful for your patience."

WAPA outlined several major repairs already completed, including installing a temporary generator at the Richmond water facility, energizing the Seven Seas Water Group Reverse Osmosis plant, and restoring service to two of the island's three critical pump stations.

Work still underway includes ongoing monitoring of pump stations, building the system pressure needed to bring the final pump station online, assessing inventory levels in storage tanks, and adjusting standpipe operations to mornings only to support restoration efforts.

WAPA stressed that "every gallon of water conserved makes a difference," thanking customers for their cooperation as crews continue working to restore water to all parts of the community.

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