

Unit 27 Restoration Ends Rotation Outages in St. Thomas-St. John, Bryan Says

After being briefed by WAPA officials, Governor Bryan said the return of Unit 27 ended rotation outages in St. Thomas-St. John after more than two weeks, while urging line repairs, more backup generation and long-term system upgrades.

Community Center / **Published On April 09, 2026 06:20 AM /**

Staff Consortium **April 09, 2026**

Image not found or type unknown



Governor Albert Bryan Jr., left, and Chief of Staff Kevin Williams listen as WAPA CEO Karl Knight provides an update on April 8, 2026. By. GOV'T HOUSE.

Governor Albert Bryan Jr. says the restoration of Unit 27 has brought an end to rotation outages in the St. Thomas-St. John district after more than two weeks of sustained service disruptions, while also making clear that additional repairs, replacement work and new generation remain necessary

if the territory is to achieve long-term energy stability.

The governor was briefed Wednesday on the return of Unit 27 and broader efforts to restore more generation during a meeting at Government House on St. Croix with Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority CEO Karl Knight and members of the WAPA Governing Board. Following that meeting, Bryan welcomed the restoration of Unit 27 at the Randolph Harley Power Plant and the suspension of rotation outages across the district.

According to the release, WAPA brought Unit 27 online on April 7, restoring needed generation capacity and allowing the outages to end.

Bryan first thanked residents and businesses across St. Thomas and St. John for their patience during the extended period of interruptions.

“We asked a lot of our people over the past two weeks, and they responded with patience and resilience,” Governor Bryan said. “At the same time, I understand the frustration and the disruption this caused to daily life, to businesses, and to essential services. For that, I am sorry. Our people deserve better, and we remain focused on delivering a system that meets that expectation.”

He also thanked WAPA personnel, technicians and support crews who worked extended hours under difficult conditions to return the unit to service.

“After more than two weeks of rotations, this is a welcome step forward for St. Thomas and St. John,” Governor Bryan said. “I want to thank the plant personnel and every worker at WAPA who stayed on the job and pushed through to get Unit 27 back online. That work matters, and it made a difference for our people.”

At the same time, Bryan said additional work remains ahead. He urged WAPA to prioritize repairs to the transmission lines serving St. John as the authority advances its plan to secure two generating units for the island. He also called for continued progress on restoring Unit 15 to service to increase available capacity and provide needed backup generation.

The governor further said WAPA must continue moving ahead with the prudent replacement of aging units at both the Randolph Harley and Richmond power plants, arguing that long-term reliability depends on replacing equipment that has outlived its useful life.

Bryan also pointed to the administration’s broader energy strategy, including support for utility-scale solar projects at Estates Bovoni and Fortuna. Those projects, according to the release, are expected to add about 35 megawatts of generation capacity to the St. Thomas-St. John grid and build on the model already in place on St. Croix at Estates Petronella and Hogensborg.

“We are addressing this on multiple fronts,” the governor said. “We are restoring units, moving forward with replacement, and building new capacity that reduces strain on the system. The work at Bovoni and Fortuna is part of that plan to deliver more reliable and more affordable energy over time.”

He closed by reaffirming his commitment to the broader effort to stabilize and modernize the territory’s energy system.

“My commitment is stronger today than it was when I said we would fix WAPA,” he said. “That was never a boast. It was a commitment to stay the course, even when the work is difficult. We

are going to keep pushing until the people of the Virgin Islands have the level of service they deserve.”

© Viconsortium 2026