

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Thomas-St. John District Experiences Wednesday Night Blackout, WAPA Apologizes

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ST. THOMAS -- A district-wide electrical service interruption affected the islands of St. Thomas, St. John, Hassel Island and Water Island on Wednesday night after one generating unit tripped followed by the subsequent failure of two other units, WAPA has announced.

“WAPA’s Unit 15, a 20- megawatt generator, tripped at approximately 7:20 pm on a fuel-related issue, and two rental units, 26 and 27, subsequently tripped after being unable to maintain the demand for electrical service,” said Executive Director and CEO Lawrence J. Kupfer. “Our engineers will work alongside APR Energy to determine why the rental units are unable to maintain functionality once a WAPA-owned generator trips. This is a

lingering challenge that will be revisited until a permanent resolution is arrived at,” he added.

According to WAPA, personnel successfully restarted one of the tripped units shortly before 9:00 p.m., which allowed for the commencement of service restoration to customers. Full restoration was achieved at 10:11 p.m. Wednesday, the authority said.

At the time of full service restoration, three generating units were on-line powering the St. Thomas – St. John district.

WAPA apologized to its customers for the inconvenience caused by the service interruption.