



VIRGIN ISLANDS
WATER
AND **POWER**
AUTHORITY

Office of the Executive Director

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June 7, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable
Kenneth L. Gittens
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
3022 Estate Golden Rock, Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820

Dear Senator Gittens:

Thank you for the invitation to testify at the 35th Legislature's Committee on Homeland Security, Justice, and Public Safety hearing scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, in the Cleone H. Creque Legislative Conference Room on St. John.

While we deeply appreciate the importance of discussing the Water & Power Authority's operational status and preparedness for the upcoming hurricane season, I regret to inform you that our Acting Chief Operating Officer-Electric, overseeing the current restoration efforts impacting our St. Thomas and St. John customers, also serves as the Incident Commander, will be unable to provide testimony due to the pressing workload associated with these critical responsibilities.

The ongoing restoration efforts require undivided attention to ensure that our customers receive the necessary services as swiftly and efficiently as possible. In light of this, the Acting COO's presence and leadership on the ground are essential at this time.

Furthermore, my recent resignation as CEO/Executive Director has added to the current leadership demands on the Authority. The transition period requires significant attention and coordination from our remaining leadership team to ensure continuity and stability during this critical time. Rescheduling the planned hearing can also offer the Committee the opportunity to hear from my successor.

However, we are committed to providing the Committee with comprehensive information on our preparatory measures, including infrastructure assessments, vegetation management, supply inventory, generator readiness, emergency response plans, grid resilience investments, community outreach efforts, and coordination with local and federal partners.

We understand the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability regarding the Authority's hurricane preparedness and are fully prepared to engage with the Committee at a later date. We look forward to a proposed alternative date for us to provide testimony.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Smith", written in a cursive style.

Andrew Smith
CEO/Executive Director
Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority

CC: Don Gregoire, Acting Chief Operating Officer – Electrical, Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority
Lorraine Kelly, Interim Chief Financial Officer, Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority
Noel Hodge, Chief Operating Officer – Water, Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority
Dionne Sinclair, General Counsel, Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority
Julius Aubain, Chief Information Officer, Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority
Sabrina King, Director of Human Resources, Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority
Shanell Petersen, Director of Corporate Communications, Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority