



Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ashburnham's Municipal Light Plant Makes Major Contribution to US Virgin Island Power Restoration Efforts

[Ashburnham, MA] — November 21, 2017 —Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant's General Manager, Kevin M. Sullivan, announced this week that AMLP has donated one of their bucket trucks to The United States Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority (WAPA) to assist in the hurricane relief and power restoration efforts on the devastated islands.

In the month of September and only two weeks apart, hurricanes Irma and Maria decimated the islands in the Caribbean basin. Weeks later, the New England Public Power electric utilities were asked to consider being part of a 'mutual aid' effort to rebuild the electrical distribution for the residents of the Virgin Islands. "When we began hearing about the extensive damage the two Category 5 hurricanes inflicted on the US Virgin Islands, it made us think about our epic New England ice storm back in 2008", said Sullivan. He added, "the Linemen and I talked about the humanitarian aspect of this request and how our customers benefitted by mutual aid for the Town of Ashburnham back then. I decided if the Linemen would commit to spending several weeks away from their families, the AMLP would support the request to help".

Once the paperwork was in place, forty trucks drove to Fort Lauderdale, FL, arriving October 11th. One of the trucks was the AMLP's bucket truck carrying two of the Linemen. All trucks were then transported by barge to the assigned island of St. Thomas, where crews had flown in days earlier to prepare. Upon the return of AMLP's first two crew members (11/5), two other linemen were sent the following day. As of this press release, they are still on the island assisting with the recovery and repair efforts.

"Receiving reports of the extent of the devastation we all realized that there might be another way the AMLP could share its resources. The three member Ashburnham Municipal Light Board voted unanimously to donate the AMLP's 17-ton bucket truck already on-site", said Sullivan. "The truck is a well-maintained 2006 International with a fifty-foot aerial lift. After driving to Florida, the vehicle has been in service 12-14 hours each day since it arrived on the island, which is a testament to its service history. Late last week, I received notification WAPA accepted the donation", he said.

AMLP's Light Board management and personnel strongly believe in paying it forward—not just within the local Ashburnham community, but in other areas near and far where the need is greatest. The USVI Water & Power Authority plans to utilize the AMLP-donated bucket truck in and around St. Thomas at their discretion, including Water Island, for the foreseeable future.

Interviews and inquiries for additional information are encouraged. Please contact Kevin Sullivan, General Manager, at Ashburnham Municipal Light Plant at 978-827-4423.
