

On September 5, 2017 Hurricane Irma directly hit the US Virgin Islands of St. Thomas and St. John as a Category 5 hurricane. Both islands were devastated and suffered catastrophic losses, including almost total loss of cellular, radio and TV communications facilities, the destruction of ports and of the St. Thomas airport, which became inoperative, and the destruction of the only hospital serving St. Thomas - St. John. While the island of St. Croix and Puerto Rico escaped the brunt of Irma, PR had significant damage to its electrical power network that left approx. 70 percent of households without power and 34 percent without water.

Two weeks later, on September 20, Hurricane Maria, after a direct hit of the US Island of St. Croix, Maria made landfall on Puerto Rico as a Category 4 hurricane, bringing very heavy rain and winds, "... an unprecedented atmospheric system," according to Ricardo Rosselló, governor of Puerto Rico. Hurricane Maria has devastated both St. Croix and Puerto Rico, which have suffered catastrophic losses, including the almost total loss of cellular, radio and TV communications facilities, very significant damages of ports and airports, which became inoperative. As of September 27, most of the island of Puerto Rico remains without power, and precariously low on gas, potable water, food supplies, currency (closed banks) as well as diesel to power the emergency generator of critical facilities, like hospitals (so far two persons have died in the ICU of a hospital, due to shortage of diesel), police and rescue centers.

On September 21st, the President of the US declared that major disasters exist in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. By official estimates, 95% of the cellular towers in Puerto Rico are down and it is known that most radio and TV stations remain off the air, a great number of them having lost their towers (including the 1,150 ft. tower of WAPA-TV). National press and Media report that there are still several municipalities (counties) isolated due to blocked, inaccessible roads; a major dam in danger of collapsing and widespread looting has taken hold – an island wide curfew of 7 pm to 6 AM has been imposed, patrolled by the local Police, the National Guard and Federal agents.

On the back of a very difficult economic situation, the devastation in the island caused by two consecutive hurricanes had been enormous. The latest government estimates are that it will take on the order of six months, assuming an exceptional federal influx of all kind of emergency monies and help, to reconstruct the electrical grid of Puerto Rico, whose main transmission lines connecting the island are down. Similar long term projections have been made to reconstruct the electrical systems of US Virgin Islands.

In summary, the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico have suffered enormous devastation and the loss of most part of their communications infrastructure (including towers and access to sites), electrical power, the lack of basic supplies, transportation availability, the deterioration of health facilities, business locales, and homes, all of which have prompted the Governor of Puerto Rico to declare that the island could become "a major humanitarian crisis", if exceptional federal emergency assistance is not provided quick enough.

Given the above circumstances of the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, it is not possible for TV Red de PR, Inc. to operate its network of LPTV stations and is thus it hereby requests a six-month Silent STA for all of its stations. When circumstances change for the better, and a better assessment of what is required is available, TV Red de PR will notify the FCC when operation of its facilities becomes feasible.