



**GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PUBLIC ADVISORY**

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) did not conduct its weekly beach sampling this week as a result of heavy rainfall experienced throughout the Territory in the wake of Hurricane Gonzalo. The Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) plans to continue its regular monitoring schedule next week.

DPNR advises the public to refrain from using the waters affected by storm-water runoff. DPNR is also advising parents to instruct their children to keep away from storm-water-impacted beaches as well as areas with manholes and storm-water flooding. There may be an elevated health risk to anyone swimming in storm-water-impacted areas as a result of increased concentrations of bacteria.

All persons should also be aware that storm-water runoff may also contain contaminants or pollutants harmful to human health and therefore all persons should avoid areas of storm-water runoff (i.e. guts, puddles, and drainage basins). For additional information regarding water quality call the Division of Environmental Protection at 773-1082 in St. Croix or 774-3320 in St. Thomas.