



COMMUNITY UPDATE - LIMETREE BAY REFINERY

EPA Providing Support During Shutdown Activities

JULY 29, 2021

Preparatory Work for Long-Term Shutdown of Refinery Set to Begin

EPA continues its work to protect the health of the community near the Limetree Bay Refinery facility on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. EPA has taken many actions to ensure that the refinery, and shutdown of the refinery, operate in a manner that meets environmental laws that are set to protect people's health.

Limetree Bay will begin this initial phase of the refinery's long-term shutdown as early as July 31. EPA has reviewed plans for the work during this first phase, which is expected to take about a week and includes starting a pilot light system and testing Flare 8 using propane to ensure it is working properly. This testing of the pilot light system is expected to take a few days, and other related work, such as removing scaffolding, will take more than a week to complete. A properly operating flare is essential as an emission control technology during subsequent phases, when Limetree will begin purging and venting of gases from the refinery process units as part of its long-term shutdown. Testing the flare will thus help ensure the safety and effectiveness of long-term shutdown operations.

During this initial phase, EPA will be operating its air monitoring stations to measure for hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). EPA will post information about any exceedances of SO₂ or H₂S to its Limetree Bay website and alert local authorities and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

EPA's toll-free hotline: **(866) 462-4789**.

Contact EPA by email: StCroix@epa.gov.

Limetree Bay Refinery website:
<https://www.epa.gov/vi/limetree-bay-terminals-and-limetree-bay-refining-llc> .

Limetree Bay has shared detailed information about the repairs that were done to the flare identified in the EPA-required independent audit of the flare system.

Limetree will also submit a detailed plan to EPA for the purging of gases that will occur once the flare is confirmed to be operating properly. Limetree will not begin this purging until EPA has approved the plan.

Once the first phase of testing of the flare is complete, and EPA has approved Limetree's plan for the purging process, the facility will begin the months-long work to purge hydrocarbons from the refinery process vessels and piping at the facility to ensure that it is properly secured for the long term.

EPA has required that Limetree acquire SO₂ and H₂S ambient air monitors. EPA will operate its own monitors during the period before Limetree's monitors are installed and during an additional period in order to confirm that the company's monitors are operating properly.

Background

On May 14, 2021, EPA ordered Limetree Bay to pause all operations at its St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands refinery due to multiple incidents that presented an imminent and substantial endangerment to public health or welfare or the environment. On July 12, the U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of EPA, took action in federal court in the U.S. Virgin Islands against Limetree Bay Terminals, LLC and Limetree Bay Refining, LLC that extended the order. At the same time, EPA and Limetree Bay submitted to the court a stipulation in which Limetree Bay agreed to a number of requirements. These include Limetree completing all measures that are necessary to eliminate any imminent and substantial endangerment to public health or welfare or the

environment posed by the refinery or refinery process units before the refinery or any refinery process unit restarts. The refinery is not currently operating, and Limetree Bay acknowledges that it does not intend to restart the refinery at the present time, thus leading to a long-term shutdown.

<https://www.epa.gov/vi/limetree-bay-terminals-and-limetree-bay-refining-llc>
