



COMMUNITY UPDATE - LIMETREE BAY REFINERY

EPA Providing Support
During Shutdown Activities

AUGUST 25, 2021

Second Phase of Long-Term Shutdown 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 operates in a manner that meets environmental laws that are set to protect people's health.

On July 31, Limetree Bay Refining, LLC successfully completed Phase 1 of the long-term shutdown, which included a flare pilot light test.

Phase 2 Shut-Down Process

Phase 2 of the long-term shutdown will consist of four stages: **(2A) Cold Circulation, (2B) Warm Circulation, (2C) Steam Degassing, and (2D) Nitrogen Blanketing**. EPA is currently reviewing and expects to approve Limetree Bay's Phase 2 Plan and Timeline. This phase is expected to begin no sooner than Friday, August 27, and will last approximately 6 weeks.

This phase will use the flare and may result in air emissions that will be monitored.

(2A) Cold Circulation involves the addition and mixing of diesel fuel to a process unit. This will allow more material to be removed from the process unit.

(2B) Warm Circulation involves heating the liquids in a process unit to increase the amount of removable material.

(2C) Steam Degassing involves the addition of steam to a process unit to remove additional organic materials.

(2D) Nitrogen Blanketing involves the injection of nitrogen into a process unit to prevent oxidation while the facility is idle.

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

Monitoring

EPA has required that Limetree install and operate Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) and Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) air monitors. Limetree has purchased monitors comparable to the monitors EPA uses. Limetree's monitors are estimated to arrive in early October. During operation of the flare, EPA will continue its air monitoring until Limetree completes installation of its monitors.

Please be aware that visible steam may be observed at the flare tip during the flare startup.

EPA will post information about any exceedances of SO₂ or H₂S recorded during active Phase 2 work, occurring from 6am to 6pm seven days a week, to its Limetree Bay website and alert local authorities and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Limetree has hired an independent on-site observer of the purging process and will be in regular contact with EPA throughout the Phase 2 process.