



AUGUST 27, 2021

Second Phase of Long-Term Shutdown Underway

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

EPA has approved Limetree Bay's Phase 2 Plan and Timeline for the long-term shutdown. Phase 2 began on August 27 and will last approximately six weeks. This phase will use the flare and may result in air emissions that will be monitored. Most work is expected to occur from 6am to 6pm seven days a week. Please be aware that visible steam may be observed at the flare tip during the flare startup. Also, on some occasions, there may be visible purging of gases.

Phase 2 consists of four stages: **(2A) Cold Circulation, (2B) Warm Circulation, (2C) Steam Degassing, and (2D) Nitrogen Blanketing.**

(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.

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.

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.

EPA will post information about exceedances of SO₂ or H₂S recorded during active Phase 2 work to its Limetree Bay website and alert local authorities and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Contact Us:

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EPA Limetree Bay Refinery Website:

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