



## **EPA Statement on Limetree Bay Incidents**

**April 27, 2021**

EPA is gathering information about recent incidents at the Limetree Bay facility on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Using its legal authorities, EPA is requesting information from Limetree Bay regarding incidents that occurred recently, including this week, at the refinery. EPA, in conjunction with the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources and U.S. Virgin Department of Health, is seeking to determine the level of the exceedances, the composition of the releases, the duration and cause of the incidents, the corrective actions taken or to be taken, the potential public health impacts, and how to best prevent future incidents.

As part of this effort, EPA plans to send experts and staff to the facility as soon as this week to conduct a joint investigation. EPA has also already planned several additional sets of inspections at the facility over the course of the coming months to focus on compliance with various environmental statutes. To protect the integrity of the enforcement process, EPA cannot at this time share specifics about, or dates of, these inspections.

EPA expects Limetree Bay to provide information about the various recent incidents in a timely manner, as required by the agency's information request. The facility has asked for an extension of time to provide the information sought by EPA's April 1 information request, and EPA has allowed a limited extension of time to respond.

Part of what EPA will learn in its site visits, inspections, and through its information requests, is the operational status of the facility. It is EPA's objective to ensure that the facility operates in compliance with all applicable legal requirements without jeopardizing public health and the environment by its operations.

The incidents have been distressing and, in some cases, caused members of this already overburdened community to become ill. EPA will work in coordination with the U.S. Virgin Islands government to determine the best way to provide regular information to the community, and an expedited way for members of the community to communicate their concerns to EPA and the local government authorities.

The Virgin Islands Department of Health encourages any residents to contact their healthcare provider if they experience symptoms like nausea, headaches or respiratory problems and has provided two telephone numbers for residents to call with questions or concerns. These numbers are (340) 773-1082 ext. 2221 or (340) 718-1311 ext. 3709.