Message

From: Evangelista, Pat [Evangelista.Pat@epa.gov]
Sent: 8/25/2022 1:38:21 PM
To: Garcia, Lisa [Garcia.Lisa@epa.gov]; Kluesner, Dave [kluesner.dave@epa.gov]; Glenn, Olivia [Glenn.Olivia@epa.gov]; Bain, Zeno [Bain.Zeno@epa.gov]; Mugdan, Walter [Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov]; Guerrero, Carmen [guerrero.carmen@epa.gov]; Simon, Paul [Simon.Paul@epa.gov]; Ruvo, Richard [Ruvo.Richard@epa.gov]; Mears, Mary [Mears.Mary@epa.gov]; McEathron, Kimberly [McEathron.Kimberly@epa.gov]; Benjamin, Arielle [Benjamin.Arielle@epa.gov]; Parker, Philip [Parker.Philip@epa.gov]; Mehta-Sampath, Ameesha [Mehta-Sampath.Ameesha@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: From Elizabeth Neville: Port Hamilton Refining and Transportation's St. Croix Refinery

The Bloomberg article Elizabeth references says "Speaking in Puerto Rico this week, Regan said the EPA is reviewing Port Hamilton's petition, but would move cautiously." As written, the "petition" was submitted by Port Hamilton. The March 22nd letter is from EPA to Port Hamilton.

From: Garcia, Lisa <Garcia.Lisa@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 9:19 AM
To: Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>; Glenn, Olivia <Glenn.Olivia@epa.gov>; Bain, Zeno <Bain.Zeno@epa.gov>; Mugdan, Walter <Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov>; Guerrero, Carmen <guerrero.carmen@epa.gov>; Simon, Paul <Simon.Paul@epa.gov>; Ruvo, Richard <Ruvo.Richard@epa.gov>; Evangelista, Pat <Evangelista.Pat@epa.gov>; Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; McEathron, Kimberly <McEathron.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Benjamin, Arielle <Benjamin.Arielle@epa.gov>; Parker, Philip <Parker.Philip@epa.gov>; Mehta-Sampath, Ameesha <Mehta-Sampath.Ameesha@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: From Elizabeth Neville: Port Hamilton Refining and Transportation's St. Croix Refinery

Dave, et al.: I just realized that this email from Elizabeth refers to both a "petition" and the March 22nd letter.

Originally it was stated that she was confusing the petition with the March 22nd letter. It would be good to get clarification as to what the groups think were the petition before we respond. Thanks, Lisa G

From: Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 4:00 PM
To: Glenn, Olivia <Glenn.Olivia@epa.gov>; Garcia, Lisa <Garcia.Lisa@epa.gov>; Bain, Zeno <Bain.Zeno@epa.gov>; Mugdan, Walter <Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov>; Guerrero, Carmen <guerrero.carmen@epa.gov>; Simon, Paul <Simon.Paul@epa.gov>; Ruvo, Richard <Ruvo.Richard@epa.gov>; Evangelista, Pat <Evangelista.Pat@epa.gov>; Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; McEathron, Kimberly <McEathron.Kimberly@epa.gov>; Benjamin, Arielle <Benjamin.Arielle@epa.gov>; Parker, Philip <Parker.Philip@epa.gov>; Mehta-Sampath, Ameesha <Mehta-Sampath.Ameesha@epa.gov>
Subject: FYI: From Elizabeth Neville: Port Hamilton Refining and Transportation's St. Croix Refinery

Received a few moments ago.

David W. Kluesner

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Northeast & Caribbean Region
Director of Strategic Programs
Office of the Regional Administrator
290 Broadway, 26th Floor
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212.637.3653 (Office)
347.330.9439 (Cell)

From: Elizabeth Neville <elizabeth@neville.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 3:48 PM
To: Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>; jvaliulis@stxenvironmental.org
Cc: Heather Croshaw Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP); Kai A. Nielsen Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP); L Cobrall Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) William.weeks@uvi.edu; John Walker <jwalke@nrdc.org>; Sara Zuckerman Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) jteelsimmonds@biologicaldiversity.org; Benjamin, Arielle <Benjamin.Arielle@epa.gov>; Bain, Zeno <Bain.Zeno@epa.gov>; Parker, Philip <Parker.Philip@epa.gov>; Michael Harris <mrharris@vermontlaw.edu>; edavis@nrdc.org; Miyoko Sakashita <miyoko@biologicaldiversity.org>
Subject: Re: UPDATE: Port Hamilton Refining and Transportation's St. Croix Refinery

Dear David,

Thank you for this update and for the documents that you shared yesterday. We appreciate your continuing to provide the CEMS data. Please keep us posted regarding Port Hamilton's response to EPA's letter about the smoldering petroleum coke and fire.

In addition to the petition that I requested in my email of yesterday (8/22) addressed to Administrator Regan, can you kindly provide an update as to whether Port Hamilton Refining and Transportation responded to EPA's March 22 letter regarding PSD permitting? If so, can you kindly provide their response(s) at your earliest convenience?

Thank you very much. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss any of the above.

Kind wishes,
Elizabeth

Elizabeth Leigh Neville

Attorney at Law

The Neville Law Firm, LLC

(407) 765-2800

Elizabeth@Neville.com

From: Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 11:00 AM

To: Elizabeth@Neville.com <Elizabeth@Neville.com>; jvaliulis@stxenvironmental.org <jvaliulis@stxenvironmental.org>
Cc: Heather Croshaw [redacted]; Kai A. Nielsen [redacted]; L Cobrall [redacted] William.weeks@uvi.edu <William.weeks@uvi.edu>; Rachel Stevens <RSTEVENS@vermontlaw.edu>; John Walker <jwalke@nrdc.org>; Sara Zuckerman [redacted] jteelsimmonds@biologicaldiversity.org <jteelsimmonds@biologicaldiversity.org>; Benjamin, Arielle <Benjamin.Arielle@epa.gov>; jvaliulis@stxenvironmental.org <jvaliulis@stxenvironmental.org>; Bain, Zeno <Bain.Zeno@epa.gov>; Parker, Philip <Parker.Philip@epa.gov>
Subject: UPDATE: Port Hamilton Refining and Transportation's St. Croix Refinery

EPA's August 18 letter to Port Hamilton is now posted on Refinery on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands | US EPA.

- Letter: Microsoft Word - Port Hamilton Refinery 104e Revised Final.docx (epa.gov)

We are working on the other matters that you raised and will be in touch.

David W. Kluesner

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From: Kluesner, Dave
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 6:23 PM
To: Elizabeth@Neville.com; jvaliulis@stxenvironmental.org
Cc: Heather Croshaw [redacted] Kai A. Nielsen [redacted] L Cobrall [redacted] William.weeks@uvi.edu; Rachel Stevens <RSTEVENS@vermontlaw.edu>; John Walker <jwalke@nrdc.org>; Sara Zuckerman [redacted] jteelsimmonds@biologicaldiversity.org; Benjamin, Arielle <Benjamin.Arielle@epa.gov>; jvaliulis@stxenvironmental.org; Bain, Zeno <Bain.Zeno@epa.gov>; Parker, Philip <Parker.Philip@epa.gov>
Subject: Port Hamilton Refining and Transportation's St. Croix Refinery

Dear Elizabeth and Jennifer, and allied organizations. I am sharing with you the following:

- Copied below, a statement by the U.S. EPA issued today, in response to the smoldering pile at the refinery
- Attached, an information request letter to Port Hamilton, which was sent on August 18, 2022 (we are correcting the website to include the letter with a date stamp) in response to their August 7, 2022 news release in which it wrote that a pile of petroleum coke was found to be smoldering at the facility on St. Croix. Petroleum coke is a charcoal-like substance that is a byproduct of refining oil. On August 18, 2022, EPA issued a letter to Port Hamilton Refining and Transportation seeking information and documents relating to the incident.
- In furtherance of your request for data from the continuous emissions monitoring system (CEMS), the attached spreadsheets contain CEMS data we received from PHRT for May to early June.

We will be working closely with SEA and allied organizations to provide as much information as feasible and we look forward to scheduling a community update meeting in the very near future.

Meanwhile, this is a reminder that the EPA community hotline is still operational at (866) 462-4789. It is not staffed 24/7 but all calls left to the voice message system during after hours will be returned as soon as possible. Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions or if we can assist in any way.

Statement from EPA on Incidents at Port Hamilton Refining and Transportation's St. Croix Refinery 8/22/22

EPA is concerned about the smoldering pile and the recent conveyor belt fire, and we are in active discussion with the U.S. Virgin Islands' Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and the facility itself to gather more information and determine appropriate next steps, including what direct assistance from EPA may be needed.

On August 18, 2022, EPA sent a letter to Port Hamilton Refining and Transportation (PHRT) asking for detailed information about the smoldering coke pile.

EPA remains committed to ensuring that the facility is run in a manner that complies with environmental regulations.

EPA's public hotline to register concerns about this facility remains active. People with concerns should call (866) 462-4789.

David W. Kluesner

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