



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

-----0-----

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

No. 45 Estate Mars Hill, Frederiksted
St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00840

Office of the Commissioner

Telephone: (340) 773-1082
FAX: (340) 773-1716

CONTACT: Jamal Nielsen, Media Relations Coordinator
FAX: (340) 713-2430
jamal.nielsen@dpnr.vi.gov

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR LIFTS CEASE-AND-DESIST AT GIANT GAS-STT

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) has lifted the **CEASE-AND-DESIST** order against the Giant Gas Station located at 6 & 9 Estate Thomas, St. Thomas. DPNR has determined that GIANT GAS has submitted sufficient information, as well as started the clean-up process, to be conditionally reinstated. Most of the actions in the Cease-and-Desist Order have a "date certain" response and DPNR will closely monitor and enforce those conditions. The Order also requires a course of action and a certified remediator report regarding the removal and remediation of any contaminants on the facility.

The following violations triggered the order:

1. 12 V.I.C. § 706(1): Failure to obtain a TFL for the operation of the gas station. The law states that "No person shall operate or cause to be operated a terminal facility as defined in section 703(9) of this chapter without a license".
2. 12 V.I.C. § 714: Failure to provide current proof of financial responsibility satisfactory to VI DPNR.
3. 12 V.I.C. § 706 (3): Failure to provide satisfactory evidence that the facility has implemented a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan for control of pollution, and the abatement thereof when a discharge occurs. Recent inspections by VI DPNR revealed violations of the facility's SPCC Plan, including failure to maintain proper secondary containment of fuel storage containers, poor housekeeping, amending oil storage capacity to match current use, and failing to meet personnel training and reporting requirements.
4. 12 V.I.C. § 704: Failure to mitigate against the discharge of pollutants, and potential corruption of waters and lands of the territory. Recent inspections performed by VI DPNR also found evidence of past oil spills and potential discharges of pollutants into or upon land.