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# Air Pollution Concerns in USVI: DPNR Urges Public to Practice Dust Control

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The V.I. Dept. of Planning and Natural Resources has issued a statement emphasizing the diverse nature of air pollution and its potential impact on human health. Commissioner Jean Pierre Oriol highlighted the various sources of pollution, both natural and man-made, including harmful chemicals, smog, greenhouse gases, and particularly, dust or particulate matter.

This particulate matter is naturally found throughout the environment and can arise from the decay of biological materials. Seasonal events, such as the Saharan dust or pollen from blooming flora, also contribute. However, in the Virgin Islands, human activities such as the numerous unpaved roads, processing plants, and ongoing construction projects can significantly aggravate the levels of particulate matter in the air.

Mr. Oriol strongly advises all stakeholders, encompassing commercial and residential entities, to uphold stringent dust control measures. Recommendations provided by the DPNR include planting vegetation, deploying water sprays, using filtration systems, and ensuring that roadways are properly maintained. Such practices are crucial to preserving the Virgin Islands' air quality and to avoid causing inconvenience to the community.

Moreover, the department underscores the legal implications of causing air pollution nuisances, whether intentional or accidental. As per the Virgin Islands Rules and Regulations Title 12 Chapter 9 Section 204-27, confirmed violations may lead to Administrative Orders, Cease and Desist Orders, and substantial fines.

For further inquiries, the public is directed to reach out to Andrew Jackson of the Air Pollution Control Program at (340) 773-1082.

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