



Congresswoman  
**DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**  
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS DELEGATE TO CONGRESS



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### **Christensen Expresses Concerns Over Revelation of HOVENSA Petroleum Spill and Clean-up**

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Delegate to Congress Donna M. Christensen said today that the revelations this week that the HOVENSA Oil refinery was the site of an over 25- year-old oil spill on St. Croix which to date has netted nearly 42 million gallons of petroleum in the clean-up process raises serious concerns. "To my knowledge, the general public, including health officials had no knowledge of this, and while the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Natural Resources apparently had a clean-up plan in place, having taken environmental health experts from the Centers for Disease Control, held health screenings and environmental health hearings in the surrounding area, I am concerned that the health sector may not have been more involved."

Congresswoman Christensen said that in the ten years since she has been Delegate to Congress, neither the EPA or DPNR have ever made her aware that this had happened and that an ongoing clean-up of this magnitude was taking place. "We have had meetings with all concerned on other issues, but this was never one of them," she said.

Congresswoman Christensen said that she will be seeking further information on both the nature and scope of the spill and the clean-up efforts from refinery officials, the Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency.