

2023 ACO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

APRIL 2025

1. Q. What types of repairs are being made inside the tanks?

A. Structural repairs and modifications are being made within the tank to ensure worker safety. The catwalk will have handrails, mid rails, and toe rails installed to meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. The center tower will be assessed by a structural engineer and reinforced to enable safe deployment and operation of the extendable boom needed to clean and inspect the tank liner.

2. Q. Is asbestos removal associated with pipeline demolition?

A. Yes, asbestos removal is part of the process for preparing the pipes for removal. The pipeline has a limited section of approximately 660 linear feet of piping that is covered by asbestos tar and felt materials. The asbestos-containing material is removed in accordance with the asbestos rules of the State of Hawaii by contractors that are licensed and certified under the Hawaii Asbestos Rules. The material is bagged in accordance with the regulations and disposed of at a landfill permitted by the State of Hawaii to accept asbestos-containing material.

3. Q: What type of treatment system is installed at the Navy Aiea-Halawa Shaft? How does the Navy know it is effective?

A: The Navy installed a temporary Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)/Ion exchange (IX) water treatment system at the Navy Aiea-Halawa Shaft. GAC and IX treatment systems are proven clean-up technologies for a wide range of contaminants. A pre-reactivation monitoring study will be completed and results submitted to the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) to demonstrate the system's effectiveness in treating constituents of concern including per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), petroleum hydrocarbons, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. The GAC/IX system will be commissioned and put into service during a pilot study approved by DOH. The system will provide advanced final-polishing treatment which exceeds what a typical home water filter can provide. Final connection to the NAHS will not occur until full reactivation approval is given by DOH. NCTF-RH will also inform the public prior to reactivation.