

## 2023 ACO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AUG 2024

### **Q1: What was the Navy's response to the Board of Water Supply's (BWS) letter indicating low level detection of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) contaminants in their inactive Aiea Well?**

A1: The Navy is aware of the letter from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply to the EPA and DOH on July 8, 2024, regarding test results from their inactive Aiea Wells that indicated low level detections of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) contaminants. Based on the information provided in the BWS letter, the Navy does not concur with their conclusions. The Navy conducts extensive bi-weekly sampling of a network of 40+ groundwater monitoring wells around Red Hill and those test results do not support the BWS' conclusions.

The Navy is also aware of a response to BWS by the regulatory agencies and refer you to them as they are directly involved as addressees of the letter.

The Navy looks forward to working with the EPA, DOH, BWS, along with other interested parties as we develop a comprehensive common understanding of groundwater conditions to protect Oahu's aquifer. The Navy remains committed to protecting the environment, regular testing, and the safe, deliberate closure of Red Hill.

### **Q2. Has PAH been detected in the Navy's drinking water?**

A2. In coordination with EPA and DOH, the Navy implemented a twelve-month voluntary Extended Drinking Water Monitoring Program in April which includes extensive monitoring for fuel-related constituents. Drinking water on the JBPHH system continues to comply with all applicable state and federal drinking water standards.

### **Q3. What is the Navy's explanation of the "PFAS plume that came and went?"**

A3. SAME RESPONSE AS #1.

### **Q4. BWS has asked the regulatory agencies to require the Navy to "expedite characterizing the nature and extent of the fuel contamination in the aquifer." Is the Navy at all working to provide more details on the history of contamination at the Red Hill fuel storage site?**

A4. Navy is already aggressively working to accelerate our Environmental Remediation line of effort. Listed below are several highlights:

**Red Hill Site Assessment of Fuel Contamination.** This summer, the Navy developed an environmental site assessment plan as part of the remediation effort and submitted this plan to regulators for comment. The plan lays the foundation for all future remediation at Red Hill.

**Red Hill PFAS Remedial Investigation.** Recently, the Navy agreed to expedite the schedule and expand its sampling efforts associated with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. The Navy submitted a work plan to Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) in June 2024, which includes a commitment to begin sampling as soon as September 2024 at a series of monitoring wells located around Red Hill.

**Groundwater (GW) Monitoring Wells.** NCTF-RH currently has more than 40 groundwater monitoring wells in and around Red Hill. Since 2021, the Navy has installed 21 new wells and anticipates completing a 22nd well by the end of August. All new well locations were extensively coordinated with regulators and numerous stakeholders, including the state Commission on Water Resource Management, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and University of Hawaii. This comprehensive well network provides a better understanding of groundwater conditions in and around Red Hill.

The Navy conducts bi-weekly groundwater sampling of those groundwater monitoring wells in accordance with the Revised Consolidated Groundwater Monitoring Sampling Plan, which was approved by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DOH.

**Groundwater Flow Model.** The Navy submitted its draft Groundwater Flow Model to DOH, EPA and University of Hawaii researchers in July 2024 and remains on plan to submit the final plan in September 2024. The Groundwater Flow Model includes a contaminant fate and transport model that helps understand how contaminants move, change, and interact with the environment over time.