

2023 ACO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

OCT 2024

1. Q: What's the Navy's response on EPA's statement about the released inspection report?

The Navy has received EPA's Inspection Report with results showing that all sampling conducted by the Navy and provided to EPA continues to demonstrate that our drinking water is free of JP-5 or any other fuel and meets all regulatory safe drinking water standards.

The EPA conducted this routine inspection to assure the Navy system continues to meet state and federal environmental and drinking water statutes and regulations. The Navy welcomed the week-long inspection as an independent assessment to ensure the integrity of our system long into the future.

The Navy takes any detection of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) or Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) seriously. In accordance with the Extended Drinking Water Monitoring (EDWM) Plan, the Navy performs additional forensic analysis to determine the source of any TPH detection as there are many non-fuel related sources that can cause a TPH detection, such as lubricants used during normal water system maintenance operations. Since the EPA inspection, the Navy resampled our drinking water source multiple times with results continuing to meet safe drinking water standards. All data continues to be available to regulatory agencies and the public.

Please note that the Navy's level of forensic analysis goes above and beyond regulatory analysis. The Navy stands by its data.

2. Q: Why is Navy reactivating Aiea-Halawa shaft and can we trust that it is safe to drink? The water coming from the Waiawa shaft is perfectly fine, why introduce risk to the JBPHH water system?

The Navy Aiea-Halawa Shaft (NAHS) was disconnected from the distribution system in December 2021, out of an abundance of caution. Since then, Waiawa Shaft remains the sole source of potable water for the entire Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam distribution system.

Adding additional water sources to the JBPHH drinking water system supports Department of Defense resiliency policy and Safe Drinking Water Act *Community Water System Risk and Resilience* goals. Reactivation of the NAHS will offer the public water system a supplemental water supply further ensuring the communities served receive a consistent, compliant, and safe source of drinking water. The Navy is undergoing multiple efforts to monitor the entire system and will continue to comply with all Hawaii Department of Health regulatory requirements and Navy security and resiliency policies.

3. Q: Where is wastewater being used in tank cleaning operations being disposed of?

All oily wastewater is collected on-site per the EPA/DOH approved plan and will be recovered and processed or disposed of at a permitted facility. The final disposal site has not yet been identified. In coordination with EPA and DOH, Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill and its contractor are working to

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identify both on-island treatment facilities and off-island (continental U.S.) for recovery and processing or disposal.