

Notice of Intent to Repair the Broken Underwater Distribution Line

NOTICE OF INTENT:

The United States Department of the Navy (Navy) is notifying the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the Navy's intent to repair the broken main for the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) water system's closed inactive underwater distribution line as required in Section 6.2 of the 2023 Red Hill Administrative Consent Order (ACO), effective June 2, 2023.

On June 9, 2023, the Navy provided a verbal summary of the project scope to repair the broken main to the EPA and the Hawaii Department of Health's Safe Drinking Water branch (DOH) in an ACO coordination meeting. The EPA and DOH was informed that the repair project replaces the carrier pipe casing with no changes to the existing alignment. The incident that damaged the underwater distribution line occurred prior to the November 20, 2021 fuel release into the JBPHH Water System and the repair work will not pose a threat of fuel contamination to the water system moving forward. Given this information, DOH determined that the scope of the repair project is not considered to be a significant modification to the water system and does not require DOH review and approval prior to construction.

The Navy will provide EPA and DOH with progress updates on the subject every 6 months, unless otherwise instructed and shall work with DOH on a path forward to resolve the associated Removal Action Report (RAR). A detailed description of the project scope is provided below.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The existing 24-inch underwater fusible PVC pipe and 30-inch outer steel casing located between Ford Island and Landing C/Hospital Point was constructed in 2019. In June 2021, a geotechnical contractor's 4-inch casing bit penetrated through the 30-inch steel casing and 24-inch fusible PVC pipe at a depth of approximately 50 feet below ground while conducting a soil boring investigation. Since the incident, the casing bit remains in-place and inside of the existing 24-inch fusible PVC waterline to minimize and prevent any debris from entering into the pipe. The damaged 24-inch underwater water transmission main between Ford Island and Landing C remains out of service.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) proposes to replace approximately 3,500 linear feet of existing 24-inch fusible PVC (FPVC) with new 24-inch FPVC pipe from Ford Island (FI) to Landing C and incidental related work by horizontal directional drilling (HDD) method. Approximately 1,450 linear feet of this existing waterline is underwater. Work includes removing and disposing of the existing 24-inch fusible PVC pipe, portions of existing 24-inch ductile iron water transmission main, and the casing bit, inspecting the 30-inch steel casing with closed circuit television (CCTV), repairing the 30-inch steel casing, installing a replacement 24-inch fusible PVC pipe, and performing hydrostatic testing of the completely repaired waterline. Repair work also includes reconnecting both ends of the 24-inch fusible PVC waterline to the existing 24-inch ductile iron water transmission main at Ford Island and Landing C.

The construction award date was on March 27, 2023 with a target completion date of June 19, 2024.