



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING SYSTEMS COMMAND, HAWAII
400 MARSHALL ROAD
JBPHH, HAWAII 96860-3139

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Ser 00/
February 6, 2023

Mr. Gaudencio Lopez
Safe Drinking Water Branch
Hawaii State Department of Health
Environmental Management Division
2385 Waimano Home Rd, Uluakupu Bldg. 4
Pearl City, HI 96782-1400

Dear Mr. Lopez:

**SUBJECT: CERTIFICATION OF UNKNOWN CONCENTRATIONS OF PETROLEUM
BASED PRODUCT RELEASED IN PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM #HI0000360**

On behalf of the United States Department of the Navy, the undersigned certifies the public notice statement in Enclosure (1), titled Administrative Notification, which states the concentration of petroleum-based product in the drinking water system for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) was unknown, is accurate based on sampling results.

In response to fuel odors reported in the drinking water system following the release of JP-5 fuel to the environment at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, the Navy began collecting drinking water samples on November 28, 2021 in accordance with the Immediate Drinking Water Sampling Plan. Results from samples collected from homes and facilities on the drinking water distribution system from November 28 to December 13, 2021 did not show detectable levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH). Following this time period, the Navy executed the Drinking Water System Recovery Plan, signed December 17, 2021 by the Interagency Drinking Water System Team, and collected samples from 10% of homes and facilities in every zone on the distribution system. Results from these samples did have some detections of TPH, but fingerprint analysis of these results confirmed they did not match that of JP-5 and were unrelated to fuel. It is based on these results that the Navy was unable to quantify the concentration of petroleum-based product in the drinking water system following the November 2021 release and stated in Administrative Notification that the concentration of petroleum contamination present in the drinking water system was unknown and "was undetectable to testing performed in homes and facilities in December 2021".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. W. Washington", is written over a horizontal line.

M. W. WASHINGTON
Captain, CEC, U.S. Navy
By direction of the
Commander

Enclosure: (1) Administrative Notification Amended June 30, 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTIFICATION

This is information users should have received in **NOVEMBER 2021** about your drinking water

Requirement: Per Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Title 11, Chapter 20, Section 18(b)(1), a public water system (PWS) owner must give public notice for drinking water regulation violations and for other situations as determined by the State.

This notification is being provided to inform the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) drinking water system users that the Navy did not provide a required public notification for the **November 2021** fuel release in accordance with the prescribed format as required by the HAR.

This is a correction of the lack of a required administrative notification - **there is NO new release of fuel from Red Hill.**

On or about November 20, 2021, a release of JP-5 fuel to the environment as a result of a break of a fire suppression drain line valve occurred at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, located at JBPHH, Hawaii, TMK 99010006, 99010001, 11012003, 11012004. A Removal Action pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), Section 11-451-13 was conducted to clean up the contaminated drinking water well and associated drinking water system at the site.

The concentration of petroleum-based product that was released into the drinking water system for JBPHH, which includes the Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) water system, is unknown. The petroleum contamination related to fuel in the drinking water system was likely diluted and was undetectable to testing performed in homes and facilities in December 2021.

Consuming water containing petroleum hydrocarbons can cause an upset stomach, cramping, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. It may cause irritation of the throat and mouth. Dermal exposure to petroleum hydrocarbons can cause skin irritation or rashes. Inhalation exposure from breathing in petroleum vapors can cause headaches, dizziness, tiredness, cough, and difficulty breathing.

Water users that experienced a strong petroleum smell were suggested to leave the area and seek fresh air. Users that experienced symptoms mentioned above were advised to contact their primary care manager or the Nurse Advice Line at 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273). For medical emergencies, it is always recommended to go to the Emergency Room or to call 911.

Evaluation of the long-term health effects of exposure to petroleum hydrocarbons is on-going. Based on current information, people that were exposed to contaminated water from the JBPHH drinking water system, including those on the AMR water system, are not expected to experience long-term health effects. There are no specific populations that are known to be more susceptible to health effects from exposure to petroleum hydrocarbons.

Water users of the JBPHH and AMR drinking water system were recommended to avoid using the water for drinking, cooking, oral hygiene, and consumption by pets and to use bottled water from November 29, 2021 until the public health advisory for each zone was amended by the DOH. Currently, drinking water from the JBPHH and AMR systems is considered safe for all uses.

In December 2021 the Drinking Water System Recovery Plan was approved and the Navy began efforts to restore the drinking water. The Navy followed a detailed process to flush the entire distribution system and all residences and buildings serviced by the drinking water system. Water compliance samples were collected from 10% of residences and buildings to send to a certified third party laboratory for testing. Once all results had been evaluated by the Interagency Drinking Water System Team and verified that the water in each zone was safe for human consumption, the DOH amended the public health advisory for each zone. The last zone was amended on March 18, 2022 and the JBPHH and AMR water systems have remained in compliance since that date.

Additional Information on the Navy's response can be found at: <https://jbphh-safewaters.org>

What should I do?

There is NO action required, this is a correction of the lack of a required administrative notification. This public notice is in addition to seven town hall meetings held in several affected residential areas; the DOH Drinking Water Advisory of November 29, 2021; Navy letters to residents and building occupants in the affected areas; Facebook updates, social media posts, and a dedicated water information website; payment of financial support and lodging, as well as furnished drinking water, laundry and shower services. As determined by the Department of Health on March 18, 2022, the drinking water in the JBPHH and AMR Public Water Systems continue to meet U.S. EPA and DOH standards.

What is being done?

The Navy is conducting long-term monitoring of drinking water in accordance with the DOH-approved sampling plan for the next two years to monitor the water quality of the drinking water system in response to the November 29, 2021 Public Health Advisory for the JBPHH Public Water System. The Public Health Advisory was amended by the Department of Health (DOH) for all users on the JBPHH and AMR Drinking Water Systems on March 18, 2022. The Amended Public Health Advisory states that tap water can be used for all purposes including drinking, cooking, oral hygiene, and consumption by pets.

What does this mean?

There is no current emergency. Your water continues to be safe to drink, and used for cooking, oral hygiene, and consumption by pets.

For more information, please contact:

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Emergency Operations Center
808-449-1979
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii
850 Ticonderoga St
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-5101

U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii Operations Center
808-656-1151, or 808-6230-7938 or 808-620-7951

This notice is being sent to you by the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam water system. Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Public water system IDs: 337 and 360 Date Distributed: May 13, 2022 Date Amended: June 30, 2022