

**Fuel Tank Advisory Committee (FTAC) Meeting  
Webinar Chat Room Questions & Answers  
9 November 2022**

- 1. Is the Navy still using Board of Water Supply water?**
  - a. No. The Navy water system is exclusively supplied by one well, the Waiawa Shaft. The Navy is working to put an additional Navy well on line and to be ready in the case of an emergency. The Navy will continue to work with BWS for support in utilizing interconnections if needed in the future.
  
- 2. How did the Navy and its counterparts decrease their water use in lieu of poisoning ours?**
  - a. The Navy has reduced water usage from the Waiawa Shaft, the sole source of water supplying the distribution system, by reducing irrigation by 75%, replacing faucets and shower heads with low flow options, and encouraging water conservation by our tenant commands and residents.
  
- 3. Are the people of Hawaii the only ones being asked to conserve water?**
  - a. JBPHH began water conservation measures in 2022 by reducing irrigation by 75%, replacing faucets and shower heads with low flow options, and encouraging water conservation by our tenant commands and residents.
  
- 4. Was fuel from Red Hill used for their maneuvers? (RIMPAC) why or why not?**
  - a. No. Fuel to support RIMPAC was provided by other above ground tanks.
  
- 5. How are panelists selected for FTAC?**
  - a. The panelists for the FTAC meeting are dictated by statute – HRS § 342L-61. DOH, EPA, and Navy review the topics to support each FTAC, then the respective agencies selected the best individual to brief and respond to questions on those topics.
  
- 6. How can I get NAVAFAC contact Information regarding Red Hill?**
  - a. NAVFAC contact information can be found on our website at <https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/Facilities-Engineering-Commands/NAVFAC-Hawaii/Contact-Us/>
  
- 7. Why do they waste water? Because there is no cost effective way to “filter” such volumes of water, although it sounds good.**
  - a. Maintaining a capture zone to prevent migration of fuel and related contaminants away from the Red Hill Shaft continues to be a requirement of the Red Hill Shaft and Maintenance Recovery Plan (RHSRMP) and the DOH Emergency Order that the Navy is meeting. The water goes through granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration as a protection measure to prevent any contaminants from going into the Halawa Stream.
  - b. The Navy continues to look into methods of beneficial re-use of the GAC’s discharge to better utilize the groundwater resources. We are currently in the design phase of a water treatment plant for a long term solution for re-use of the water.

**8. Have you been able to successfully map the extent of the contamination and/or plume?**

- a. The Navy continues to install groundwater monitoring wells to determine the extent of potential spread of contamination.

**9. Is the plan of action available to the public yet?**

- a. The Red Hill Shaft Recovery and Monitoring Plan approved by the Interagency Drinking Water System Team is available to the public and can be accessed here:

<https://www.cpf.navy.mil/Portals/52/Downloads/JPBPHH-Water-Updates/2022-01-26-red-hill-shaft-recovery-and-monitoring-plan.pdf>

**10. Exceedance = Action should've been taken by the Navy... did this happen?**

- a. The Navy has completed remediation actions for every exceedance that has occurred. There is a course of action (COA) for each exceedance type listed in the Long Term Monitoring Plan and when an exceedance occurs, the DOH is immediately notified to ensure the Navy is acting in accordance with the approved COA. In each instance, remediation actions have occurred (i.e. flushing, replacing of a fixture, etc.) and then follow on sampling is done to confirm the remediation was successful.
- b. When an exceedance occurs, the residences or water users of the location are provided with an alternative drinking water source until re-sampling confirms the water meets safe drinking water standards.

**11. Have GAC been replaced with new filters?**

- a. Yes, the zeolite and GAC media was replaced in August 2022.

**12. Why take so much water if no fuel is being captured?**

- a. The Navy continues to operate the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system at Red Hill in accordance with the Red Hill Shaft Recovery and Monitoring Plan (RHSRMP) and in compliance with our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination permit. Maintaining a capture zone to prevent migration of fuel and related contaminants away from the Red Hill Shaft continues to be a requirement of the RHSRMP and the Hawaii Department of Health Emergency Order with which the Navy must and will continue to comply.

**13. Is the filtering process protecting the aquifer from spreading contamination?**

- a. Maintaining a capture zone to prevent migration of fuel and related contaminants away from the Red Hill Shaft continues to be a requirement of the RHSRMP and the DOH Emergency Order with which the Navy must comply. The water goes through granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration as a protective measure to prevent any contaminants from going into the Halawa Stream.

**14. Did we waste a billion gallons of water?**

- a. Following the November 2021 fuel spill at Red Hill, the Navy installed a Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system at the facility with the capacity to filter up to 5 million gallons (MGD) of water per day, in accordance with the DOH Emergency Order.

**15. Can you not use the billion gallons of water?**

- a. The Navy continues to look into methods of beneficial re-use of the GAC's discharge to better utilize the groundwater resources. We are currently in the design phase of a water treatment plant for a long term solution for re-use of the water.

**16. Will the Army be involved in planning remediation?**

- a. The Army was involved in the development of the Red Hill Shaft Remediation and Monitoring Plan, developed and approved by the Interagency Drinking Water System Team in January 2022.

**17. Where can we find information on these wells?**

- a. On DOH's website for the 2022 4<sup>th</sup> quarter FTAC are the slides that Navy briefed. One of those slides identifies the general location of current and future monitoring wells.

**18. Has the second phase infiltration system including zeolite, that was planned for 2 months after initial GAC filtration efforts, been implemented yet?**

- a. The 5MGD GAC was placed into service on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in accordance with the Red Hill Shaft Recovery and Monitoring Plan. The zeolite-GAC system, identified in the plan, was a part of Phase 1 during the initial start-up and has been the filler media composition used throughout the GAC's operation. A routine media change-out was performed in August 2022.
- b. The Phase 2 improvements, which increased monitoring capability through the installation of in-line analyzers, were completed in March 2022.

**19. Is there a reason why the Navy can't do two things at the same time, defuel the tanks with the tanker trucks above while repairing the gravity pipelines?**

- a. Using trucks to defuel the facility carries a significant amount of risk of release and other environmental impacts, and Department of Defense (DoD) believes that risks associated with those types of operations would not be acceptable. Given the amount of fuel at Red Hill, it would take thousands of trucks in order to move the fuel to other locations. Moreover, it would require thousands of connections and disconnections of flexible hoses to remove fuel from tanks and transfer it to truck tanks – these connectors are not currently at the facility, and would require new installation, routing, testing, etc. Furthermore, trucks coming in and out of the facility must navigate sharp turns on a steep, narrow road – thousands of times. These significant safety and environmental concerns make this option untenable. We continue to review and iterate the defuel plan to ensure we can accomplish it as safely as is possible.

**20. Does new tenants know about the RRT?**

- a. Joint Base Commander and team have drafted a letter that is included in the leasing packet for new PPV residents. There is also a welcome email that is sent to new PPV residents with a link to the JBPHH Water website.
- b. Kapilina is a private housing agent and we do not interfere with their tenant actions, what they do or do not tell tenants is within their responsibility.

**21. Why are there no wells southwest of the facility?**

- a. The Navy has identified a location for a well southwest of the facility. Drilling is scheduled to begin in Spring of 2023.

**22. How far back will ATSDR collect data from?**

- a. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) plans to evaluate data and information on chemical releases from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility since 2005 that may have resulted in human exposures. The activities will build on ATSDR's 2005 public health assessment report on the Pearl Harbor Naval Complex superfund site and two CDC/ATSDR and HDOH health surveys conducted with Navy Water System drinking water users in 2022. Key questions of our investigation include:
  - What levels (or concentrations) of hazardous substances have been in soil, groundwater, and drinking water?
  - When and at what levels were people exposed to hazardous substances through drinking water?
  - What are the potential past, present, or future health risks associated with those exposures?

ATSDR will also identify any data and information gaps that prevent us from answering people's questions about exposures and health risks. ATSDR will make recommendations to agencies and stakeholders to protect public health.

**23. Will ATSDR only get their data from the military or will they get it from the water department also?**

- a. ATSDR will use existing environmental and health data collected by other agencies to evaluate Red Hill-related exposures and health risks. We expect that most of the environmental data we will use will have been collected by the Navy with Hawaii Department of Health and US Environmental Protection Agency oversight. However, we will reach out to other agencies, including the Board of Water Supply, to gather as much relevant data as possible.

**24. Why won't Tricare reimburse for civilian doctors who have treated patients with symptoms?**

- a. The health and safety of patients is the top priority of the Defense Health Agency (DHA). However, DHA does not oversee TRICARE reimbursement policies. Please contact the Public Affairs Office at the Department of Defense. To contact this office, please call 703-697-5131 Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST or email [osd.pa.dutyofficer@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pa.dutyofficer@mail.mil)

**25. Has any data/samples checked for bioaccumulation?**

- a. Toxicology testing for petroleum exposure is not recommended, as results from these tests can be positive from common environmental exposures, such as inhaling gasoline fumes at a gas station. There are no medical tests available that can confirm exposure to fuel-contaminated water as a result of the Red Hill fuel spill.

**26. Why is there no testing for POFAS?**

- a. The Red Hill Shaft was sampled for PFAS on December 20 and December 27, 2021. Results were below action levels. The Department of Defense maintains a PFAS sampling program for all drinking water wells and the Navy will continue to perform routine sampling in accordance with this policy.
- b. In December 2022, in response to the AFFF spill outside Adit 6 at the Red Hill Facility, the Navy began an additional groundwater sampling plan that was approved by DOH. The Navy is collecting weekly groundwater samples from 9 monitoring well locations, as well as the Red Hill Shaft, to monitor any potential contamination in the groundwater.

**27. Why did you only test total organic carbon at the beginning?**

- a. Testing for total organic carbon at the beginning of the crisis was conducted as a screening method to determine areas of concern. Samples were collected from centralized locations in each housing area to send to certified laboratories on the mainland as representative samples of each area.

**28. Was there anything monitoring done before the leak?**

- a. Prior to November 2021, the Navy was collecting samples from 25 groundwater monitoring wells around Red Hill. The Navy performed routine sampling at all three drinking water wells in accordance with regulatory standards.

**29. Call for replacing items to confirm clean water (water heaters, sinks caps, etc.)?**

- a. As part of the Drinking Water System Recovery Plan the Interagency Drinking Water System Team (IDWST), which was comprised of representatives from the Hawaii State Department of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, Army, Navy, and experts in drinking water systems, established the standards for declaring the water in each home safe. Evaluations of the household plumbing and appliances, levels of contamination, and testing results that included 72-hour stagnation samples, led to the determination that flushing was the necessary course of action to address any potential contamination.

**30. Will there be more support for confirm clean water?**

- a. Since March 2022 the Navy has been executing a Long Term Monitoring (LTM) program which will collect 7,800 samples from residences and buildings in all zones over a two year period. Certain locations, such as schools, CDCs and medical facilities, will be sampled multiple times throughout LTM.

**31. Too much Navy Involvement - no civilian oversight?**

- a. The military is commanded by civilian leadership. Additionally, both military and civilians provide oversight for all Red Hill efforts. Supporting both the defueling and closure plans are military, civilians, and civilian reservists. The Secretary of Defense, a civilian and our most senior military leader for Department of Defense, made the decision to defuel and close Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The Navy has and will continue to adhere to federal and state laws and also to oversight provided by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health. The Navy will also continue to engage with elected officials, and to engage with the community.

**32. Claims that Surgeons General of other branches have no awareness of the water issue?**

- a. The Defense Health Agency is committed to the health and safety of its patients. They continue to work closely with medical experts from Department of Defense, Hawaii Department of Health, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to monitor the health effects of exposure to contaminated water following the Red Hill fuel spill.

**33. What are the exact contaminants that are in the water?**

- a. Following the November 20, 2021 release jet propellant-5 (JP-5) reached the Red Hill Shaft. The Navy tests for a wide range of potential constituents related to JP-5 and the breakdown of JP-5 present in the drinking water system. Since March 2022, we have not had any exceedances of JP-5 related chemicals. The list of contaminants tested can be found in the Drinking Water Long-Term Monitoring Plan that was approved by the Interagency Drinking Water System Team earlier this year.

**34. When will our questions be heard and when will we receive an answer back?**

- a. FTAC Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> quarter chat questions and answers document is posted on Navy's website for public viewing and a copy has been provided to the DOH.

**35. How would you ensure incoming DOD personnel know what has been going on? For the military and civilians?**

- a. Joint Base Commander and team have drafted a letter that has been distributed to all commands on base with relevant information.

**36. Will there be Paper Notices for Full Disclosure at places like: NEX, airport, stores along Kamehameha Hwy, public schools, and other places affected by the water.**

- a. Joint Base Commander and team have drafted a letter that has been distributed to all receivers of Navy Water with relevant information.