



COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
850 TICONDEROGA STREET, SUITE 110
JBPHH, HAWAII 96860
PHONE: 808-473-2888 FAX: 808-473-2876
www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii



News Release

POC: Lydia Robertson, Director of Public Affairs
Duty Cell: (808) 371-5189
Cell: (808) 554-4813

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U.S. Navy: Red Hill Facility exceeds industry and regulatory standards, protecting the environment, water, and health

In closing arguments today, the Navy reiterated testimony from a weeklong hearing, saying that the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Facility is not only well maintained and carefully operated, but also uses the best available technology to inspect and maintain the fuel tanks. These safety factors meet and exceed industry and regulatory standards, adding further layers of protection, keeping the drinking water safe and preventing tanks from leaking, according to the Navy's closing statement.

The Department of Health Contested Case six-day hearing concluded today with testimony heard from the U.S. Navy, Honolulu Board of Water Supply and the Sierra Club of Hawaii.

During the hearing, the Navy presented evidence, exhibits, and testimony to show they maintain and operate the Red Hill Facility in a way that protects human health and the environment. It does so in close coordination with the Hawaii Department of Health and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The hearing also allowed the Navy to correct many misunderstandings and misconceptions concerning the Navy's long-standing commitment to protect water supplies on Oahu.

"Given all of this work, all the data gathered, all the studies and improvements, and all of the evidence that has been presented to you, the only reasonable conclusion is that the Red Hill tanks are not leaking and that the drinking water is safe," said Navy Counsel Jon McKay in closing arguments.

Under the Administrative Order on Consent, the Navy, Defense Logistics Agency, DOH and EPA work closely "to protect drinking water, natural resources, human health, and the environment," according to the closing argument. The Navy collaborates with DOH and EPA to address tank upgrade alternatives, groundwater modeling, and tank inspection and repair

processes to protect the environment. DOH and EPA regularly inspect the Red Hill facility and determine that it meets or exceeds all applicable standards and requirements.

Central to the Navy's arguments is the administrative record that shows the vast array of tests that confirm the tanks are not leaking, and fuel has not contaminated drinking water supplies.

In the testimony, Navy described the unique nature of the Red Hill Facility and vital role the facility plays in the security of the nation. "It was constructed in a mountain and moves fuel by gravity. It is hardened against physical threats and threats such as cyber intrusion, and it serves a very specific purpose: It is a critical source of fuel between California and Japan for our Military Services that must operate in the Pacific Region. And while Red Hill has been in service for 80 years, its many design features do fulfill the current Underground Storage Tank (UST) Regulations standards," according to the prepared closing statement. Red Hill tanks also provide back up for the island in the event of natural disaster for power plants, hospitals, and emergency response.

Additionally, evidence provided during the hearing shows the Navy can, does and will continue to meet requirements of the Department of Health's implementing rules for Underground Storage Tanks.

The DOH and EPA approved and oversee the Navy's Tank, Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance (TIRM) Program for Red Hill. This TIRM program uses methods recommended in the American Petroleum Institute standards and adds layers to ensure safe operation – independent, third party quality control. The Navy is working with experts at the University of Hawaii and elsewhere to continue upgrading the process.

"The Navy's inspection process is systematic," according to the Navy's statement. "It takes as long as necessary to inspect each metal plate, with as many personnel as necessary, to ensure that the entire surface of the tank is examined."

Coordination with regulators has led to many significant improvements to date, and more are planned. Some examples of improvements and investments at Red Hill include:

- Continuous tank gauging
- Automatic inventory controls
- Long-term inventory trend analysis
- Daily visual inspections
- Soil vapor monitoring, being converted to a continuous operation
- Planned permanent enhanced releases detection equipment in each tank
- More than 20 groundwater monitoring wells, with more planned

During the hearing, the Navy had several subject matter experts answer questions regarding the hundreds of millions of dollars spent to date to protect the environment under the supervision of regulators at DOH and EPA. Information discussed during the hearing was pulled

from thousands of pages of testimony filed earlier by all parties to the case, including the Navy. Among the documents that were already filed and not brought up this week were the long, complex and technical explanations of how the Red Hill tanks comply with Hawaii and federal regulations. That administrative record shows that all of the tests confirm the tanks are not leaking, and fuel has not contaminated our drinking water. With the hearing over, the Navy will continue safe operations at Red Hill and provide follow on information as requested.

For more information about Red Hill, visit

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/environmental/red-hill-tank.html>.

For more information about Navy Region Hawaii, visit

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrh.html>

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