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Navy Contractor Seismic Survey, Some Noise Expected

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – The Navy’s contractor, AECOM Technical Services Inc., will be conducting a Seismic Survey on properties located in North & South Halawa Valley, and Moanalua Valley from Dec. 10 - 20. During this time, the public may hear intermittent noises and should be aware that it is a necessary part of the survey’s field work. The survey is not intrusive or destructive in nature.

“This action is in support of an environmental investigation for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility’s Administrative Order on Consent,” said NAVFAC Hawaii’s Environmental Director Aaron Poentis. “The data collected from the survey will be used to assess the valleys’ underlying subsurface geology, to better understand the flow of ground water adjacent to the Red Hill site.”

The survey investigation will be performed by a 4-5 five person crew working during daylight hours between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. The crew may be seen by the public using a truck/trailer, a seismic pulse source, and a land streamer with geophones to pick up the seismic pulse.

Survey methods to be used have been designed for urban areas along streets, roads, or open areas. There will be some temporary traffic management and control; however, no major redirection or stoppage of traffic flow is anticipated.

As to noise, the public may hear an intermittent striking of a steel plate which produces an audible sound similar to a hammer striking a metal plate. Sometime the noise can be mistaken for a gunshot by people who are unaware that a seismic investigation is underway.

“We ask that those living in the North & South Halawa Valley and/or Moanalua Valley be aware and share this information with others,” said Poentis. “That way no one will be surprised or concerned should they hear unusual noises or see the contractor’s truck or equipment out in the community.”

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Naval Facilities Engineering Command: The Facilities and Expeditionary Combat Systems Command

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