



Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility  
Public Information Workshop  
**Moanalua Middle School**  
**March 14, 2018**



*On March 14, 2018 the U.S. Navy, Environmental Protection Agency and the Hawaii State Department of Health held a Public Information Workshop. The workshop provided an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and hear the latest update on the Administrative Order on Consent for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. We distributed and collected public comment sheets. The questions and answers are posted here.*

**1. Why is the alternate site still underground? Why doesn't Navy consider above ground tanks?**

The Navy did take above-ground tanks into consideration, but such tanks do not provide the same level of protection and security as the Red Hill tanks embedded in rock-solid structures within a hardened mountain. We continue to study all options, however, and if a decision is made to recapitalize or rebuild Red Hill we will conduct an in-depth analysis in order to comply with all existing permitting and environmental regulations.

**2. Where did the 27,000 gallons leaked in 2014 go?**

To date the drinking water has always tested safe to drink for all users and continues to meet all drinking water standards. All monitoring shows there is no free product floating in any monitoring well, indicating the majority of fuel released from the facility remains trapped in the concrete surrounding the tanks and layers of basalt rock. All available evidence indicates that we have elevated levels of petroleum constituents in the groundwater surrounding monitoring well #2 which is adjacent to Tank #5. Evidence further suggests that natural biodegradation of fuel is occurring as it decomposes with time. The Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) requires additional studies be conducted to add to our collective knowledge as to the nature, fate and transport of fuel constituents in this particular location. Meanwhile, our Navy's environmental professionals continue their long-term effort to monitor groundwater and drinking water sources and to provide the results to the regulatory agencies for evaluation and assessment.

**3. If the 2014 leak hits our water table, what is the plan?**

The Navy and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) are responsible for taking the necessary steps to ensure our drinking water remains safe for consumption. If such an event should occur, the Navy will follow all response actions and procedures identified in our Groundwater Protection Plan (GWPP). This plan, approved by the Hawaii State Department of Health, was developed to take care of any risk associated with an inadvertent release of fuel from the Red Hill Facility. The GWPP provides a systematic decision system, including responsibilities and specific response actions that will be implemented should groundwater action levels exceed the acceptable level. They span a range of options from increasing monitoring frequency to providing water treatment and any action undertaken would be fully funded by the Navy and DLA. In addition, the Navy currently uses fourteen monitoring locations to assess the condition of the groundwater within the vicinity of the Red Hill Facility. This assessment system will continue to be improved as new monitoring wells are added as planned.

The GWPP will continue to be updated to incorporate all data and results of current environmental studies being performed under the AOC.

**4. Are there locally trained officials who visit the tanks regularly to see if there are leaks and any danger to our water supply?**

Yes, under the terms of the enforceable order, the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) along with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), have authority to oversee and inspect the facility. They routinely inspect the facility at their discretion. As regulators, they review and evaluate all of our analytical monitoring data that is generated by Navy contractors using EPA approved and certified test methods. Additionally, DOH field representatives are provided the opportunity to observe collection of water samples for these tests, and the Navy voluntarily provides routine split samples to enable the regulatory agencies to conduct redundant testing to compare the Navy analytical results that are derived with EPA laboratory results.

**5. “Open house” format style not productive (“was one-sided, biased information). We want to hear what other community members are asking/saying/thinking.**

The Open House format is just one of the methods and meeting formats we use to share information with the community. We have found the open house format to be the most effective and productive means for face-to-face direct access to subject matter experts. It permits numerous discussions to occur simultaneously thus affording more questions to be answered and more concerns addressed in a given amount of time. It also affords the opportunity for private conversations for those who do not feel comfortable speaking in public. We expect the community to have an opportunity to comment publicly at the next regulator-lead public meeting.

**6. We want to see a 10-year plan, not a 20-year plan.**

Twenty years to perform any significant upgrade to the Red Hill facility safely and securely is extremely aggressive. Ten years is likely impossible. We must consider physical constraints of working within the Red Hill facility, operational requirements, environmental considerations, and safety concerns, none of which existed on the same scale in the 1940s, when 17 workers were killed in constructing the facility. We must factor all this when we consider how long construction will take in Red Hill.

**7. We want to see a decision-making matrix.**

The Navy submitted a Tank Upgrade Decision Process Document on September 29, 2017 [See link below] and we are currently developing a supplement to that document.

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-10/documents/tank\\_upgrade\\_alternative\\_decision\\_process\\_29\\_sept\\_2017.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-10/documents/tank_upgrade_alternative_decision_process_29_sept_2017.pdf)

**8. We want more detailed information on the tank upgrade alternatives.**

Detailed information on the Tank Upgrade Alternative can be found here:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-12/documents/red\\_hill\\_tank\\_upgrade\\_alternatives\\_report-redacted-2017-12-08.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-12/documents/red_hill_tank_upgrade_alternatives_report-redacted-2017-12-08.pdf)

Detailed information on the Alternate Location Study can be found here:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/red\\_hill\\_alternative\\_location\\_study\\_5\\_february\\_2018\\_redacted.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/red_hill_alternative_location_study_5_february_2018_redacted.pdf)

*For more information, please visit the following websites.*

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii – Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility: [www.cnic.navy.mil/redhill](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/redhill)

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility: <https://www.epa.gov/red-hill>

State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) – Red Hill Underground Storage Tank Project:

<http://health.hawaii.gov/shwb/ust-red-hill-project-main/>

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**Welcome!** This workshop will provide community members the opportunity to talk one-on-one with the US Navy, State Department of Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency staff to learn about the work underway, what progress has been made, and an opportunity to ask questions.

1. What did you learn from this workshop? I learned so much more  
about the test water and the options for tank upgrades.  

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2. Was there information this workshop didn't provide that you would like to learn more about?  
I came to find out what the current contingency  
plan was if the 2014 spill were to hit the  
water table now.  

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3. Do you have any general feedback? The 3-D Modeling and  
the handouts were great, but I really just  
would like to have a plan in case the  
testing were to come back contaminated/non-drinking safe  
tomorrow or in a week or a month.  

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1. What did you learn from this workshop? that the alternate site  
under consideration is not alternate at all.  
its the same place + still underground!!!  
the navy still does not know where the  
fuel has gone.

2. Was there information this workshop didn't provide that you would like to learn more about?  
Where the fuel has gone —

3. Do you have any general feedback? open house style is not  
productive to group learning — kept getting  
the round about from poster to poster.

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1. What did you learn from this workshop? I learned a lot but also a little.

There is lots of research into alternative sites below ground, but none above. No explanation why we can't have them above ground. Lots of fuel has been lost + multiple studies for further prevention but none to find the lost fuel. This is ar drinking water!!

2. Was there information this workshop didn't provide that you would like to learn more about?

- Tanks above ground option
- actions for long plan;
- why fuel not found
- we can't wait 20 yrs!
- progress that has been made

3. Do you have any general feedback?

It would have been nice to have a more formal presentation, not just people sending you around to stations where they don't want to answer a question.

If you would like to provide comments after this public meeting, please send your comments to [CNRH.PAO@navy.mil](mailto:CNRH.PAO@navy.mil).

## Where can I find more information?

Navy, Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC): [www.cnic.navy.mil/redhill](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/redhill)

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1. What did you learn from this workshop? I learned that this is a very complex issue, and that it appears any alternatives will stay underground. The time line is also quite long.

2. Was there information this workshop didn't provide that you would like to learn more about?

I think I would like to hear concrete answers about a timeline 3 alternatives. I understand that our water is currently drinkable, but no information about what would happen if the water becomes contaminated in the future.

3. Do you have any general feedback? This I thought this would be more formal, with presenters. I thought everybody was friendly, but still kind of vague.

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1. What did you learn from this workshop? More detailed info on the RH TUA's

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2. Was there information this workshop didn't provide that you would like to learn more about?

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3. Do you have any general feedback? Very factual presentation

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1. What did you learn from this workshop? \_\_\_\_\_

"a one gallon leak is too much"  
This is a long term project that is spending  
a great deal of money on research.

2. Was there information this workshop didn't provide that you would like to learn more about?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you have any general feedback? \_\_\_\_\_

The deadline is too far away  
Do have to wait for a disaster before  
action is taken?  
Please keep our water safe for  
us and future generations.  
Move the deadline up.

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1. What did you learn from this workshop? Your alternative analysis is absurd. It should include state of the art completely above ground storage tanks — like the Navy is doing in Washington.

2. Was there information this workshop didn't provide that you would like to learn more about? What does the decisionmaking matrix look like?

3. Do you have any general feedback? One sided, biased information  
You need to hold a traditional public hearing where community feedback can be heard by the community.

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1. What did you learn from this workshop?

Local officials can visit underground tanks without having to set an appointment. May is advance. Microorganisms eat gasoline. Neighborhood boards have been invited to tour the fuel tank facilities.

2. Was there information this workshop didn't provide that you would like to learn more about?

Would like to know if there are local, trained officials who visit tanks regularly to see if there are leaks and a danger to our water supply.

3. Do you have any general feedback?

Would like to do a Red Hill fuel tank tour. My contact information: [REDACTED] (Neighborhood Board member)

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