



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER  
NAVY REGION HAWAII  
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Aloha, Stakeholder,

This is my seventh and final Red Hill stakeholder letter. It has been my absolute honor and privilege to serve with the 'ohana in this beautiful and strategic location. Thank you all.

Soon Rear Admiral Brian P. Fort will assume command of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. Your Navy team is getting an outstanding leader. He understands our imperatives, our mission and the significant responsibility the Navy must uphold when preserving both our nation's security and our natural resources. I know you will offer Admiral Fort the same staunch support and honest feedback you have always given me. Together, I am confident the team will continue to develop science and fact based solutions that will improve energy security and decrease environmental risk.

The EPA and Hawaii Department of Health, along with the Navy and Defense Logistics Agency, will host a public meeting on Thursday, June 22 at Moanalua Middle School. This is a great opportunity for the public to hear, firsthand, answers to their questions and to hear the latest update our progress on the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC).

The Navy fully supports the AOC. It provides the structure and governance that is enabling us to scientifically address the technical challenges we committed to take head-on and overcome. The process is working; the process is transparent; the process has already demonstrated clear accountability from both the regulators and the regulated. By now, many of you are aware that the most recent EPA and Hawaii Department of Health letter to the Navy was a frank and critical assessment that informed us that we need to do more to comply with Sections 6 and 7 AOC requirements – the two sections to evaluate the environmental conditions in the vicinity of Red Hill to inform future actions.

I agree, and we can and we will do better. While no one likes getting a progress report that essentially says ...'Navy, you need to work harder and smarter to meet a future requirement', their letter illustrates the AOC's power and value. It proves that the process is transparent and working, and that regulators are holding us to the highest standards. Regulators assess and verify our progress, and they provide appropriate guidance and feedback. I also want to keep their letter in context; the Navy is meeting its other AOC obligations. To the point, with this feedback, we have started and will continue to increase our efforts and will apply the necessary corrections to meet the Sections 6 and 7 requirements. Specifically, we have already taken actions to bring onboard additional consultants who have the exact expertise we need and we have officially requested relevant data from any organization that can help us develop the AOC Sections 6 and 7 models. Most importantly, I want to assure you that we continue to fully support the AOC.

In addition to our increased work for AOC Sections 6 and 7, the Navy will award a contract soon to complete the 1st phase of a 4-phase risk and vulnerability assessment for the entire Red Hill facility. This detailed Quantitative Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (QRVA) will help us assess the potential effects we could see at Red Hill by applying the most common scenarios

industry has experienced. Subsequent phases of the study will assess less likely scenarios, until we characterize a broad spectrum of scenarios and their likelihood, all to understand what could potentially cause a future release at Red Hill. It's important to understand both the likelihood and the potential damage caused by an event when determining risk factors. Having both allows the Navy to make truly wise investments in the best and most practicable prevention and mitigation technologies and shape and focus training and improve operating procedures. Again, all these are addressed in the AOC.

Our latest Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam drinking water tests again show a "non-detect" for petroleum substances. As you may recall, that drinking water source is the one closest to the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. Better yet, testing confirms that the drinking water remains safe, within federal drinking water standards, not only for the Navy's Red Hill well, but for all neighboring Board of Water Supply wells. In addition to drinking water testing, the Navy continues to expand the Red Hill groundwater testing network. We just completed our newest groundwater monitoring well, bringing us up to 13 sampling points. The drinking water is safe and we are actively working to keep it that way.

A last point I wanted to make. Yes, the Red Hill fuel storage facility is 70 years old, but the fact is, the facility is in great condition. The steel lined concrete tanks are in good condition and they don't leak, we are continually modernizing the facility, and the fuel release in January 2014 was due to human error, not simple material failure. Additionally, there is no fact based evidence to conclude that the tanks are at risk for any material failure. The AOC is, however, analyzing how to reduce the risk even further as we review the tank upgrade alternatives that will lead to a decision on what physical upgrades to install in the tanks. Double walling is part of the solution set being considered, but whatever the solution, the AOC decision making process will be based on sound engineering, science and subject matter expert input.

To learn more, please visit: [www.cnlic.navy.mil/redhill](http://www.cnlic.navy.mil/redhill).

Thank you again for your time, interest and support. I will always remember my time here fondly, and will carry my love for Hawaii everywhere the Navy takes me.

With Aloha and Very Respectfully,



J. W. FULLER  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy