



Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility

Oahu, Hawaii

Fact Sheet

Update July 14, 2014

To provide an update to our neighbors and the community, the following information is offered on Navy actions taken as a result of the fuel level discrepancy detected at Tank 5 in January 2014 at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, Oahu, Hawaii.

BACKGROUND

Navy fuel operators detected a discrepancy in the tank's monitored level on January 13, 2014. The tank held JP-8 aviation fuel, primarily consisting of kerosene. Manual measurements indicated a possible loss of fuel from the tank, and the Navy immediately began transferring fuel to another tank in accordance with response procedures. A full inspection is underway to determine the complete cause of the leak. To date, 17 pinhole sized anomalies have been found.

IS OUR DRINKING WATER SAFE FOR CONSUMPTION?

Drinking water for both Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and civilian communities continues to meet federal drinking water quality standards.

Drinking water is vitally important to us all, so the Navy is taking action to collect more data, conduct routine compliance sampling, and better understand the potential for impacts, if any, to this valuable resource.

The Navy is continuing to work in a collaborative way with the state Department of Health, as it has for many years, as well as with other regulators and stakeholders to protect our drinking water resources.

WHAT ABOUT A "PLUME"?

There is no evidence supporting the notion of a sub-surface plume of intact fuel (free product) moving toward any drinking water sources.

There are some fuel-related ingredients that exist in our well (JBPHH Water System) at the lowest of detectable levels, but not free product moving as a plume. Again, drinking water for Joint Base and civilian populations continues to meet federal drinking water quality standards.



A Navy-contracted worker inspects the bottom of Tank 5 at Red Hill Bulk Fuel storage facility.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

Specifically, actions taken by the Navy since the detection include:

- Immediately drained the tank.
- Initiated efforts to clean/inspect the tank to determine the cause of the fuel discrepancy.
- Accelerated monitoring efforts for ground water, oil water interface, and potable water.

- Initiated efforts to update the ground water protection plan.
- Initiated efforts to develop parameters and approach to validate and revise the ground water and contaminant fate model, including the siting of additional sentinel (ground water monitoring) wells to support the predictive modeling efforts. These contracting efforts were completed ahead of schedule on March 28.
- Initiated efforts to conduct site characterization of the nature and extent of any possible free product near and beneath Tank 5.
- Provided the Initial Release Response Report to the state Department of Health on April 24, on schedule as required within 90 days.
- Navy contractors began visual inspections April 24, followed by vacuum box testing of suspected anomalies that may continue for several months.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GROUNDWATER AND MONITORING WELLS AND DRINKING WATER WELLS?

Groundwater is not uniform in chemical the makeup or purity. Oahu’s drinking water is drawn from specific sources that are sampled regularly to ensure it is safe for consumption. These sources are different from groundwater monitoring wells, also known as sentinel wells, whose purpose is to detect contaminants and predict movement.

There are currently eight sentinel wells in the vicinity of Red Hill. The Navy awarded a contract on May 22 for up to four additional monitoring wells. Initially, the Navy is seeking regulatory approval for the installation of two sentinel wells to the north of the facility.

The timeline for all wells is dependent on regulatory and site approvals, dig permits, and other requirements.

The wells will be sited and drilled as quickly as possible following all appropriate regulatory procedures.



Navy-contracted workers inspect the wall of Tank 5 at Red Hill.

The Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is operated within industry standards and maintained under American Petroleum Institute guidelines. It is a national strategic asset and continues to provide vital, secure fuel storage for ships and aircraft of United States Pacific Fleet and other military branches.

**Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs**

www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii

www.facebook.com/navyregionhawaii