

Honolulu Board of Water Supply

# News Release



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## **PROPOSED SETTLEMENT REACHED BETWEEN EPA, STATE OF HAWAII AND THE U.S. NAVY**

*Oahu residents urged to review the document and provide comments*

HONOLULU – On June 1st, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) released for public review and comment a proposed agreement called an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with the U.S. Navy and the Defense Logistics Agency that requires the military to take measures to minimize the threat of future leaks at the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

According to EPA and DOH, the agreement will require the Navy to conduct a feasibility study over the next two years to explore options for upgrading the tanks over a period of 20 years; conduct annual tank tightness testing; and conduct additional hydrogeology studies that may result in the installation of additional groundwater monitoring wells.

Public comment is being accepted on the AOC for a 30-day period, until July 1, 2015. Based on the feedback, the EPA and DOH can either sign off on the proposed AOC; seek to modify the AOC; or take other action based on any new information and comments from the public.

The Board of Water Supply is reviewing the agreement and will be submitting its comments and concerns. Since the 2014 fuel leak was reported, the BWS has expressed its concerns about the protection of the aquifer under Red Hill and has asked that the Navy double line its tanks; install advanced leak detection and tank corrosion protection; and clean up the fuel that is already underneath the tanks so that further contamination doesn't reach its wells.

"We are committed to protecting our groundwater aquifers and take seriously anything that could impact our ability to provide quality drinking water to meet Oahu's needs," said Ernest Lau, manager and chief engineer. "As stewards of this precious resource, our review to date already finds a lack of opportunities for stakeholders and the public to participate in the design and implementation of the additional studies and work being specified under the agreement. We ask for the public's support in sharing their concerns about the protection of their drinking water by providing comment on the AOC before the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline."

The BWS encourages its customers and the public to learn more about the AOC by attending a public hearing scheduled for **Thursday, June 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm** at Moanalua Middle School cafeteria, located at 1289 Mahiole Street.

For more information about BWS' position on this issue and what BWS is doing to protect Oahu's water resources, visit <http://www.boardofwatersupply.com/cssweb/display.cfm?sid=125087>. Information on the proposed agreement is available online at [health.hawaii.gov/RedHill](http://health.hawaii.gov/RedHill) and <http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/ust/redhill/index.html>.

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