

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843



June 2015

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

Premise Address:

Aloha Valued Board of Water Supply Customer:

Subject: Red Hill Fuel Storage Tank Leak Update

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) is committed to serving safe drinking water by protecting our groundwater aquifers and takes seriously anything that could impact its ability to provide quality drinking water in sufficient quantities to meet Oahu's needs.

In January 2014, the U. S. Navy reported a 27,000-gallon leak of jet fuel from Tank 5 at its Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The Navy owns 20 fuel tanks in the Red Hill area, each able to contain up to 12.5 million gallons of fuel. These tanks are located 100 feet above the groundwater aquifer. One hundred (100) feet is the height of the State Capitol. This aquifer is also the same one that BWS uses to provide water to residents from Moanalua to Hawaii Kai. **The BWS is testing its wells in the area and wants to assure our customers that our water is safe to drink.** However, Navy studies show that fuel leaks from the Red Hill tanks have occurred in the past, and the groundwater underneath the tanks are already contaminated with fuel. These findings describe a situation that poses a serious threat to the aquifer's long-term ability to provide safe drinking water.

The BWS has also been working to obtain more information about the facility, staying in contact with the Department of Health (DOH) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), conducting our own groundwater studies, and doing everything we can to urge the Navy to (1) double-line the tanks; (2) install advanced leak detection and tank corrosion protection and; (3) clean up the fuel that is already underneath the tanks so that the contamination does not reach our wells.

The DOH, EPA, and the Navy have also been working on an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) which will determine what the Navy will need to do in order to prevent future fuel leaks and contamination to the aquifer. The proposed AOC was released June 1, 2015, and we encourage residents in surrounding communities to stay tuned for announcements on the AOC and participate in the process to finalize the document.

A public meeting to discuss it will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2015 from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Moanalua Middle School cafeteria, 1289 Mahiole Street, Honolulu. For more information and to submit comments, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/redhill/> and <http://health.hawaii.gov/RedHill>. After reviewing public comments, EPA and DOH may sign the AOC to make it effective, or may seek to modify it based on information received during the comment period.

Why should customers be concerned?

The BWS has drinking water sources that get water from the same aquifer that is beneath the Navy's Red Hill fuel storage tanks. These sources provide more than 25 percent of the water serviced to residents from Moanalua to Hawaii Kai. According to Navy studies, fuel leaks from the Red Hill tanks have occurred in the past, and the groundwater beneath the Red Hill tanks are already contaminated with fuel. This contamination, if not cleaned up, has the potential to migrate to neighboring wells in the area because the groundwater is always moving. This situation poses a serious threat to BWS wells and the aquifer's long-term ability to provide safe drinking water.

How can you help us protect our precious water source?

The BWS needs your help to join the BWS in its efforts to urge mitigation efforts by the Navy to further protect our groundwater and the environment. Residents may do this by:

- Attending upcoming community meetings in your neighborhood about this issue and voicing your concerns about protecting our water source.
- Reviewing the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) and providing feedback during the public comment period.
- Contacting your elected officials to let them know you are concerned about this issue and that you support efforts to protect Oahu's groundwater resources.
- Keeping informed about this issue by tracking bills in the legislature and attending community forums.
- Helping build awareness of this issue by sharing this information with your family and friends.

We will post information about the upcoming public meeting on our website at: www.boardofwatersupply.com. You may also contact the BWS at contactus@hbws.org or at 748-5041 if you do not have access to a computer.

For more information on the Red Hill Fuel Facility and underground storage tanks, please visit these websites:

State Department of Health: <http://health.hawaii.gov/shwb/ust-red-hill-project-main/>
Environmental Protection Agency Underground Storage Tank Homepage: <http://www.epa.gov/oust/>

Very truly yours,



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Manager and Chief Engineer