



JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM WATER QUALITY ROADMAP

FEBRUARY 2024

Below is a timeline and roadmap of activities with steps the Navy has taken and will take to protect the environment, the aquifer, and our people, their families, and our neighbors.

2021

- MAY 6, 2021**
Red Hill operators improperly execute a fuel transfer procedure, resulting in a spill of JP-5 (jet fuel). Not known at the time, a fire suppression system sump pump transfers some of the fuel into a retention line, where it remained until November 20, 2021.
- NOVEMBER 20, 2021**
A Red Hill watchstander inadvertently strikes a drain valve, spilling the fuel deposited in the retention line on May 6. A portion of that fuel contaminates the Red Hill drinking water well and the JBPHH drinking water distribution system.
- NOVEMBER 28, 2021**
The Navy disconnects the Red Hill well from the JBPHH drinking water distribution system.
- NOVEMBER 29, 2021**
DOH issues a Health Advisory for the JBPHH drinking water system.
- DECEMBER 3, 2021**
The Navy disconnects the Aiea-Halawa Shaft out of an abundance of caution. The Waiawa well, located more than six miles from Red Hill, is currently the only drinking water source for the JBPHH.
- DECEMBER 17, 2021**
The IDWST is formed and is comprised of representatives from the DOH, EPA, FEMA, Navy, and Army. The team develops requirements to restore the drinking water system, to include flushing and sampling plans.

- DECEMBER 2021 – MARCH 2022**
The Navy conducts flushing of the complete JBPHH water distribution system (approximately 250 miles of waterlines) and facilities/residences in accordance with the Drinking Water Distribution System Recovery Plan. Flushing and sampling actions are implemented via zones. The Navy implements Rapid Response Teams to address water quality complaints.

2022

- MARCH 7, 2022**
Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announces the decision to defuel and permanently close the RHBFSF.
- MARCH 18, 2022**
DOH lifts Health Advisory, declaring JBPHH drinking water fit for human consumption.
- MARCH 2022**
In addition to emergency response sampling actions, the Navy begins a two-year long-term monitoring program, which extends the total sampling effort for homes, schools, child development centers, facilities, and hydrants throughout the JBPHH drinking water distribution system to exceed 9,300 samples collected and analyzed.

2023

- JANUARY 3, 2023**
Red Hill Clinic begins seeing patients.
- SEPTEMBER 2023**
The Navy begins deployment of air quality monitors onboard JBPHH as part of an effort to establish a baseline and aid in the event of a catastrophic spill during Red Hill defueling.
- OCTOBER 16, 2023**
The JTF-RH initiates gravity defueling, which is the process of using gravity to drain fuel from tanks.

- OCTOBER 2023**
Reports from residents on the JBPHH water system raise concerns about the quality of the drinking water.
- OCTOBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024**
The Navy conducts premise plumbing investigation, in coordination with EPA and DOH, based on October 2023 resident concerns.
- DECEMBER 15, 2023**
JTF-RH completes gravity defueling. In two months, the joint task force is able to remove over 104 million gallons of fuel.

2024

- FEBRUARY 2, 2024**
The Navy surges personnel, resources, and expertise to respond to public concerns about water quality.
- MARCH 2024**
Long-Term Monitoring of the JBPHH drinking water distribution system is complete. The Navy initiates a follow-on sampling plan to ensure 100% of residences are sampled.
- APRIL 2024 – MARCH 2025**
The Navy voluntarily implements the EDWM for the JBPHH water system and, with the continued Safe Drinking Water Act compliance sampling, will ensure water is safe to drink and meets all state and federal drinking water standards. In addition, the Navy continues to evaluate and enhance the capabilities of the Rapid Response Teams that are responding to all resident water complaints.
- JUNE 2025**
The Navy issues a Final Report summarizing the results of the EDWM. Based on the results, the EDWM may conclude and the JBPHH system would return to routine drinking water compliance monitoring, or the EDWM may be modified and extended in some or all zones.

DOH = Hawaii Department of Health
EDWM = Extended Drinking Water Monitoring
EPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency
IDWST = Interagency Drinking Water System Team
JBPHH = Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
JP-5 = Jet Propellant-5
JTF-RH = Joint Task Force - Red Hill
NCTF-RH = Navy Closure Task Force - Red Hill
RHBFSF = Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility