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February 12, 2024

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Austin:

Subject: Request for Information Related to the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility

On December 15, 2023, the Navy completed work to defuel the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSF) of 104.6 million gallons of fuel. Over the next three to four years, the Navy will be working to remove 64,000 gallons of residual fuel, 28,000 gallons of sludge, and over three miles of pipeline from the facility. Now that the fuel has largely been removed from RHBFSF and the facility is being decommissioned, there is no longer any basis to cite defense-sensitive critical infrastructure as the reason to deny access and redact the contents of reports on RHBFSF. As the agency charged with managing Oahu's municipal water resources and providing residents with safe and dependable water service, it is paramount that full and complete information from the Red Hill investigations is provided to Board of Water Supply (BWS) and the public in real time without further delay. Accordingly, BWS (again) asks that the Navy provides us with the following information in unredacted form:

1. A complete, unredacted copy of the Navy Red Hill Closure Plan Supplement 3
 - Our understanding from the Fuel Tank Advisory Committee (FTAC) meeting on November 15, 2023, is that Closure Plan Supplement 3 has been provided to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH).
2. A complete, unredacted copy of the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) September 19, 2023, Final Report of Findings, Red Hill Shaft Optimization Study Report
3. All DOH and/or EPA responses to the NAVFAC Red Hill Shaft Optimization Study Report issued by the Navy on September 19, 2023.

- Our understanding from the FTAC meeting on November 15, 2023, is that DOH (and possible EPA) provided a comment letter or other response to the Navy on or about November 15, 2023, that provides regulatory comments on the recent Red Hill Shaft Optimization Study.
4. A complete, unredacted copy of the May 6, 2021, RHBFSF fuel release document titled "Root Cause of the JP-5 Pipeline Damage, Assess Tank 20 Piping for Return to Service at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility" dated September 7, 2021.
 - This root cause document was issued by Austin Brockenbrough & Associates, LLC of Richmond, Virginia and submitted to Navy Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC).
 5. A complete, unredacted copy of the June 13, 2022, document Final Endorsement on RDML Christopher J. Cavanaugh, USN Itr 5830 of 14 Jan 22, Subject – Command Investigation into the 6 May 2021 and 20 November 2021 Incidents at Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (aka "Cavanaugh Report"). Please include complete copies of all documents listed as Enclosures in Appendix A of the Cavanaugh Report.
 6. All laboratory reports of all water data sampling provided in electronic data deliverable (EDD) format.
 - This request is inclusive of all laboratory results of groundwater monitoring wells, Red Hill Shaft, Navy Waiawa Shaft, Navy Aiea-Halawa Shaft, and samples obtained under the Red Hill Recovery and Monitoring Plan Appendix E, the Long-Term Monitoring Plan of the Navy Drinking Water System, and in response to the November 29, 2022, aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) spill near Adit 6 at RHBFSF.
 7. Disclosure of all past AFFF uses and their PFAS compounds from the time the AFFF fire suppression systems were installed at RHBFSF and JBPHH.
 8. Records of all AFFF releases for all Navy facilities on Oahu to date, including the date of the incident, volume, type, release location, and remediation actions that resulted.
 9. Most recent monitoring well installation work plan.
 - Our understanding from the Red Hill Monitoring Well "Mini" meetings held on November 1 and 29, 2023, is that the Navy was to submit an updated monitoring well installation work plan to the EPA and DOH in December 2023.
 10. All groundwater modeling and geologic modeling files for RHBFSF and the subsurface in the vicinity of Red Hill.
 - Please provide groundwater model files in USG and GW Vista format.
 - Please provide geologic model files in EVS and/or GIS format.


As we have made clear in prior correspondence, the information requested consists primarily of environmental data, not critical infrastructure or defense-sensitive information. BWS respectfully asks that the Navy provide the requested information in

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unredacted form as soon as possible. Only then can we effectively assess the magnitude and ultimate fate of the releases originated from the Navy's RHBFSF and the potential past and future impacts of this contamination to our irreplaceable sole-source groundwater aquifer.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions. Please feel free to contact me at (808) 748-5061.

Very truly yours,



ERNEST Y.W. LAU, P.E.
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