



JOINT BASE WATER DAILY UPDATE

Joint Information Center

(808) 471-5013

www.navy.mil/jointbasewater

[3/7/2022]

00:00:07 - 00:00:34

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Hello everyone and welcome to the daily water update for March the seventh. I'm Captain Darren Guenther, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawaii. There was a significant announcement made earlier today by Secretary of Defense Austin on the future of the Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility. I'd like to welcome the Commander of Navy Region Hawaii, Rear Adm. Tim Kott to talk about this important news. Thank you for joining us, Adm. Kott.

00:00:35 - 00:01:06

REAR ADM. TIMOTHY KOTT

Thanks, Darren, thanks for having me here this afternoon and for this opportunity to share this very important news, which is important to our families and important to our community. So if you'll allow me I'd like to read excerpts from Secretary Austin's statement as spoken by Press Secretary Kirby. And these these comments are excerpts from the Secretary's statement which really highlights, focuses on protecting our people and protecting our environment.

00:01:07 - 00:01:22

REAR ADM. TIMOTHY KOTT

So from Secretary's statement in his words, Secretary Austin, "After close consultation with senior civilian and military leaders, I've decided to defuel and permanently close the Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility in Hawaii.

00:01:23 - 00:01:57

REAR ADM. TIMOTHY KOTT

"This is a multi step process. Throughout the process, we will work closely with Hawaii's Department of Health and with the Environmental Protection Agency to safely defuel the Red Hill facility. No later than May 31, the Secretary of the Navy and director of the Defense Logistics Agency will provide an action plan for safe and expeditious defueling of the facility with the completion date target of 12 months. Then, as soon as we've made corrective actions to ensure the defueling will be safe, we will begin defueling.

00:01:58 - 00:02:26

REAR ADM. TIMOTHY KOTT

"Finally, we will permanently close Red Hill facility, including conducting any and all necessary environmental remediation around the facility. This is the right thing to do. We will continue to work with the Hawaii Department of Health, Hawaiian national and local elected officials and other community leaders to clean up the water at the Red Hill Well, and we will develop an environmental mitigation plan to address any future contamination concerns.



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REAR ADM. TIMOTHY KOTT

"When we begin to consider land use options for the property after the fueling facilities closed, we will stay in lockstep with the communities in Hawaii. Nothing will be decided without careful and thorough consultation with our partners. The same goes for our workforce and their families. Your health has been impacted, your lives and livelihoods have been disrupted. And in many cases, your very homes have been rendered unavailable to you. We owe you the very best healthcare we can provide, answers to your many questions and clean safe drinking water. Quite frankly, we owe you a return to normal and you have my commitment to that end.

00:03:14 - 00:03:55

REAR ADM. TIMOTHY KOTT

"Throughout this process and moving forward, we have remained grateful for the partnership and guidance of our federal congressional, state and community stakeholders. These consultations, which will continue, had both informed and strengthened our planning and we are deeply appreciative of this support. I said about achieving the three priorities when I took this office; defend the nation, take care of our people and succeed through teamwork. I believe my decision to shut down the Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility aligns perfectly with all three of these priorities." And again, those were Secretary Austin's words from his statement.

00:03:56 - 00:04:05

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Admiral, thank you for that. Can you talk about what this announcement means for our ongoing efforts to restore the water for our community and our families?

00:04:06 - 00:04:52

REAR ADM. TIMOTHY KOTT

Sure Darren, and right now, it doesn't change anything we're doing on the ground today that our interagency partners are doing that our Soldiers, our Sailors, our Airmen, our Coast Guardsmen, our medical treatment facilities, our number one priority, from day one has been taking care of our people. And we'll continue to do that in earnest, providing safe drinking water, to remediate the Red Hill shaft, and continue with the best of class leading testing, which will continue with our long term monitoring. So all those efforts will continue till we get everybody in their homes and we'll continue far after that to ensure we have this right, and we can address everyone's concerns that the drinking water's safe and that we restored the environment and the well.



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CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Thank you. Thank you for that update.

00:04:55 - 00:05:24

REAR ADM. TIMOTHY KOTT

Thanks, Darren, and one thing it just I can't thank you enough again. I've been following you. You're doing a great job, the team here that supports you, and then to our team on the ground, the Interagency Drinking Water System Team, with the help of Hawaii Department of Health partners, Environmental Protection Agencies, our local communities, city that we're working with, everybody is working tirelessly around the clock very humbly and quietly. So I can't thank you enough for what you do and what that team is doing. So thank you. Thanks for having me.

00:05:25 - 00:06:01

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Thank you Admiral. Before we go to our regular update, I'd like to let you know that you can see the Secretary's full press conference on the Joint Base Facebook page. It's been saved there in the same way that we update our daily water updates and post them there. The impact, you know, to our families is foremost on our mind. So what I'd like to do now is move to our map update to show you the progress that we've made over the weekend in restoring your water.

00:06:02 - 00:06:31

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Our map chart is updated on our websites. Our Water Resource website is your primary link for that and this map is one click away on that water resource update. Additionally, we have our data, water face, excuse me page, and you can find all the test results at that location. You can also find this map chart at that location as well. So the first thing I'd like to comment on is our movements over the weekend.

00:06:32 - 00:07:18

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

We completed the move-in for three neighborhoods this past weekend after their water was declared safe for all uses. That was McGrew Point, Halawa housing and Camp Smith. And so we're looking at a chart here with a lot of green on it. So several neighborhoods, a number of neighborhoods so far have had their water declared safe for all uses by the Hawaii Department of Health who independently makes that decision. That is Pearl City Peninsula, that's Ford Island. We talked about McGrew Point, Halawa housing, Camp Smith, Hale Moku, Hokulani, Red Hill neighborhood, and a portion of Aliamanu Military Reservation and neighborhood.



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CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

Now I'd like to say that Army Garrison Hawaii is going to wait for decisions on the final two zones for Aliamanu neighborhood prior to doing a move back in into that neighborhood. So with that, zones, H2 and H3, the full recommended data package with the endorsement of the Interagency Drinking Water Team has been forwarded over this weekend to the Hawaii Department of Health and they are taking a look at that package currently for their decision.

00:07:53 - 00:08:37

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

And there's one other neighborhood also at the Department of Health that went over late last week and into the weekend is Makalapa. Now, our Interagency Drinking Water Team is looking at a number of zones and they're in final review for several of those. I'd like to wait until tomorrow to give you a little more information before speculating on what the next packages are going to be. But we're in final review on several of these neighborhoods. So a lot of momentum and I think a lot of good news for our families out there looking towards clean water and potentially a move back into your homes. So with that, that's our map update for today.

00:08:38 - 00:09:29

CAPT. DARREN GUENTHER

And that was your daily water update for today. Please join us tomorrow, same time we're monitoring your questions on Facebook and you can also email those questions to CNRHPAO@gmail.com. Don't forget to check out the water info website I just mentioned that's at navy.mil/jointbasewater and the water data is at JBPHH-safewaters.org. Also make sure to check out the good stuff at greatlifehawaii.com/wegotyou. Please remember we're all in this together as one community and ohana. Stay safe. Take care of yourself. Take care of each other and we'll see you tomorrow.