



REGION 9

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

January 17, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL – READ RECEIPT REQUESTED

Rear Admiral Stephen Barnett
Commander
U.S. Navy Region Hawaii
850 Ticonderoga Street, Suite 110
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii 96860-5101
Stephen.d.barnett.mil@us.navy.mil

SUBJECT: 2023 Consent Order Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility
Request for Closure Plan for Site Assessment and
Release Response Actions

Dear Rear Admiral Barnett:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commends the work done by Joint Task Force – Red Hill (JTF-RH) to safely and expeditiously remove over 104 million gallons of fuel from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (Facility) on behalf of Navy and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) under oversight of EPA pursuant to the 2023 Consent Order. This work exemplifies how EPA can work effectively with the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) to oversee Defueling and Closure pursuant to separate orders; EPA’s 2023 Consent Order and DOH’s 2022 Emergency Order.

EPA would like to continue the momentum gained during Defueling and looks forward to working with the Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) to complete removal of the residual fuel and to safely and expeditiously Close¹ the Facility. The 2023 Consent Order

¹ The 2023 Consent Order provides the following:

“Close” or “Closure” shall mean the process defined in Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”) Chapter 11-280.1, Subchapter 7, including associated underground storage tank (“UST”) defueling, UST cleaning, site assessment/release response, and permanent closure requirements as referenced therein. *Site assessment/release response includes the soil, groundwater, and soil vapor that may have been contaminated by the Facility Subject to Closure as provided in HAR at Chapter 11-280.1, Subchapter 6. (Emphasis added).*

requires both Phase 1 Closure² and Phase 2 Closure.³ To date, the Closure Plan and Supplements submitted pursuant to the 2023 Consent Order have focused on Phase 1 Closure. On December 19, 2023, DOH sent a letter setting forth DOH's expectations for the Site Assessment Plan required as part of Closure pursuant to DOH's 2022 Emergency Order (DOH's Expectations Letter).

This letter sets forth EPA's expectations for site assessment and release response actions pursuant to the 2023 Consent Order. Pursuant to Section 5.1 of the Statement of Work,⁴ EPA requests that the Navy and DLA submit a revised Closure Plan (Site Assessment and Release Response Actions Supplement / Phase 2 Closure Plan) to EPA for approval to address site assessment and release response actions to be completed as part of Closure and a schedule for performing each activity. Upon approval by EPA, Navy and DLA shall implement Phase 2 Closure in accordance with the approved schedule.

Given the complexity of the response actions, the Phase 2 Closure Plan should include a revision to the NCTF-RH Integrated Master Schedule (IMS) submitted on December 15, 2023, which includes an outline of the IMS for all of Phase 2 Closure. EPA acknowledges that additional supplements will be needed to cover subsequent stages of Phase 2 Closure, and EPA will require additional supplements pursuant to Section 5.1 of the Statement of Work as the work progresses. The Navy and DLA should incorporate and take advantage of the site investigation work done to date pursuant to the 2015 Administrative Order on Consent, DOH's 2022 Emergency Order, and the January 2022 Red Hill Shaft Recovery and Monitoring Plan in the Phase 2 Closure Plan.

² "Phase 1 Closure" shall mean the following, consistent with HAR § 11-280.1-71: (1) emptying and cleaning the Facility Subject to Closure by removing all liquids and accumulated sludges; and (2) (a) removing the Facility Subject to Closure, (b) filling the Facility Subject to Closure with an inert solid material, or (c) closing in place the Facility Subject to Closure in another manner approved by EPA.

³ "Phase 2 Closure" shall mean the following, consistent with HAR §§ 11-280.1-71 and -72, as well as HAR Chapter 11-280.1, Subchapter 6: conducting a site assessment of and any necessary release response for the soil, groundwater, and soil vapor that may have been contaminated by the Facility Subject to Closure.

⁴ Section 5.1 provides the following:

Within 60 days of EPA's request, if any, Navy and DLA shall submit to EPA for approval a revised plan, including schedule, for the permanent closure of the Facility Subject to Closure ("Closure Plan"). The Closure Plan shall include . . . *site assessment and release response action activities to be completed as part of Closure; a schedule for performing each activity, and any other requirements for Closure in HAR Subchapter 6 (Release Response Action) (HAR §§ 11-280.1-60 — 11-280.1-67) and Subchapter 7 (Out-of-Service UST Systems and Closure) (HAR §§ 11-280.1-70 — 11-280.1-75). (Emphasis added)*

In addition to the items set forth in DOH's Expectations Letter, the initial Phase 2 Closure Plan should include the following items:

1) Closure Site Assessment (System Wide)

- Scoping Meeting(s)
- Characterization of Known Historical Releases (Records Review)
- Site Assessment Work Plan(s)
- Site Assessment Report(s)
- Groundwater and Soil Vapor Monitoring Plan(s)

2) Investigation for Soil and Groundwater Cleanup (Areas of Interest)

- Scoping Meeting(s)
- Site Investigation Work Plan(s)
- Site Investigation Implementation Report(s)
- Conceptual Site Model (CSM) Update(s)
- Site Cleanup Criteria Report(s)
- Contaminant Risk/Exposure Assessment(s)

3) Corrective Action/Remediation (Areas of Interest)

- Scoping Meeting(s)
- Corrective Action Plan(s) (Evaluation of Remedial Alternatives)
- Corrective Action/Remediation Implementation Work Plan(s)
- Corrective Action/Remediation Progress Report(s)
- Corrective Action/Remediation Completion Report(s)

4) Site Closeout

- Long-term Stewardship Plan(s)

The Phase 2 Closure Plan tasks and deliverables are iterative. As additional knowledge of site conditions is learned, the Navy and DLA shall update models, CSMs, and risk assessments accordingly. Additional fieldwork may be needed to determine the full nature and extent of contamination and the Navy and DLA shall addend existing Quality Assurance Project Plans, Sampling and Analysis Plans, and other work plans as needed, and obtain EPA approval before each phase of work.

While the site may be investigated as areas of interest or operable units defined by geographic location, affected media, or methods of remediation, the Phase 2 Closure Plan and work should holistically evaluate nature and extent, fate and transport, risk to receptors, and overall site conditions.

EPA will continue to coordinate the work pursuant to the 2023 Consent Order with the work required pursuant to DOH's Emergency Order as we have done throughout Defueling and Closure work performed to date.

Section 5.1 of the Statement of Work provides a revised closure plan shall be submitted within 60 days of EPA's request. If Navy and DLA commit in writing by February 16, 2024, to provide the Phase 2 Closure Plan by June 28, 2024, EPA will agree to the extended due date given the scope of the request. This is consistent with the IMS that Navy and DLA proposed for the Site Assessment Plan pursuant to DOH's Emergency Order. EPA looks forward to meeting with Navy, DLA and DOH at the scoping sessions planned for February, March, and April to coordinate the details.

Sincerely,

Claire Trombadore, Director
Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division

CC: David Kless, Deputy Commander, DLA Energy
RDML Marc Williams, Deputy Commander, Navy Closure Task Force – Red Hill
CAPT James Sullivan, NCTF-RH Deputy Remediation & Environment
Sherri Eng, Executive Director, Navy Closure Task Force – Red Hill
Milton Johnston, Environmental Director, Navy Closure Task Force – Red Hill
Matthew Cohen, Red Hill AOC Project Coordinator, Environmental Protection Agency
Jamie Marincola, Red Hill ACO Project Coordinator, Environmental Protection Agency
Joshua Stout, Red Hill AOC/ACO Project Coordinator, Navy Closure Task Force – Red Hill
Kathleen Ho, Deputy Director for Environmental Health, Hawaii Department of Health
Kelly Ann Lee, Red Hill Project Coordinator, Hawaii Department of Health