



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

November 27, 2023

Vice Admiral John Wade  
Joint Task Force – Red Hill  
1025 Quincy Avenue, Suite 900  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii'i 96860-5101  
[via email only: [john.f.wade2.mil@us.navy.mil](mailto:john.f.wade2.mil@us.navy.mil)]

Dear Vice Admiral Wade:

SUBJECT: DOH Concurrence on Accelerated Defueling Schedule

Earlier this month, the Hawaii'i Department of Health (DOH) received the Joint Task Force – Red Hill's (JTF-RH's) proposal to accelerate the defueling schedule to complete both flowable tank bottoms defueling and pipeline unpacking in December 2023, potentially shortening the current schedule by about one month. We understand that the change in schedule is due to the larger quantity of fuel that was removed during tank mains defueling, and the proposed change from daytime-only operations to 24-hour operations for tank bottoms defueling. While the DOH concurs with the proposed change to accelerate the schedule, we also recognize that the rate of fuel movement through the FOR (fuel oil reclamation) line with the jumper is not well established. The DOH appreciates the JTF-RH's continual efforts to expedite the schedule while proceeding safely.

In addition, the DOH acknowledges receipt of the following on November 16, 2023:

1. *Defueling [Operation Orders] OPORD Flowable Tank Bottoms – FOR to JP5 Pipeline to Hotel Pier, Revision 0, Updated: 16 Nov 23*
2. *JTF-RH Response to DOH Comments re Red Hill Pipeline Final Unpacking CONOP*
3. *Defueling OPORD Final Unpacking – F24 Pipeline to Tank 301, Revision 0, Updated: 16 Nov 23*
4. *Defueling OPORD Final Unpacking – JP5 Pipeline to Tank 301, Revision 0, Updated: 16 Nov 23*
5. *Defueling OPORD Final Unpacking – F76 Pipeline to Tank 301, Revision 0, Updated: 16 Nov 23*

VADM John Wade  
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In accordance with condition 6 of our October 10, 2023 Defueling Tanks Mains and Bottoms Conditional Approval, the JTF-RH provided the updated OPORD for flowable tank bottoms on November 16, 2023. After reviewing the OPORD, the DOH recommends that the JTF-RH add to Table 4 Opening Valve Alignment baseline valve checks for valves 704, 712, 870, 565, 567, 218I2, and 218I5 to ensure they are in the correct orientation. We have no additional comments on the *Defueling OPORD Flowable Tank Bottoms – FOR to JP5 Pipeline to Hotel Pier*.

Regarding the unpacking submissions, we do not have additional comment on the CONOP and continue to review the OPORDs. We would like to discuss the OPORDs with your technical team during the upcoming Defueling Technical Working Group meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Kelly Ann Lee, Red Hill Project Coordinator, at (808) 586-4226 or [kellyann.lee@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:kellyann.lee@doh.hawaii.gov).

Sincerely,

*Kathleen Ho*

KATHLEEN S. HO  
Deputy Director for Environmental Health

c: Mr. Jamie Marincola, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [via email only]  
Mr. Evan Osborne, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [via email only]  
BG Michelle Link, JTF-RH [via email only]  
LTC Noor James, JTF-RH [via email only]