

Temporary Debris Storage (TDS) Site Monitoring
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and County of Maui Department of Environmental Management
August 29, 2025

The Temporary Debris Storage (TDS) site located in Olowalu is estimated to have received 380,493 tons of ash and debris, reaching just over half of its original design capacity. The TDS site was designed to protect the soil, groundwater, and ocean, and is being closely monitored by USACE, County of Maui, and Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) to ensure no impacts to the surrounding area or the marine environment from the ash and debris, along with any leachate or rainwater run-off generated.

Leachate is a liquid, usually rainwater, which percolates through the ash and debris within the lined area of the TDS working boundaries. Though most of this water is either absorbed into the waste mass or evaporates into the air, some may pass through the ash and debris, and may pick up contaminants present within the ash, such as heavy metals (i.e., arsenic, lead, and cobalt) as detected by DOH in samples of the ash taken in Lahaina. Leachate is different than rainwater or surface water run-off, which is diverted around the TDS working area from the surrounding hills. Stormwater is intentionally diverted around the TDS to minimize the generation of leachate. All leachate collected within the TDS area is drained by gravity to a low spot in the TDS working area called a sump, where it is drained via a drainpipe to a leachate basin. This leachate basin is located directly downhill from the TDS working area and is constructed with a thick (80 mil) liner to prevent any infiltration into the underlying soils.

The leachate generated is utilized within the limits of the lined TDS working area where the storage of ash and debris is taking place. Leachate basin level monitoring results are presented in Table 1.

Date	Level	Gallons (est)
1/2024 – 6/2025	see previous reports	
7/9/2025	dry	0
8/28/2025	dry	0

Table 1. Leachate basin monitoring levels.

A percolation basin is located below the ash and debris storage area, designed to receive rainwater run-off, which is diverted around the TDS working area, which does not contact any ash or debris. The purpose of the percolation basin is to allow rainwater run-off to percolate into the natural soils and not run down the roadway or drainage channels. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prevents contamination of the surrounding area from site operations which complies with applicable state and federal requirements.

On January 21, 2024, the County of Maui approved Ordinance #5596, also known as “Bill #120.” Among other recordkeeping, operational and planning requirements, the ordinance required the following specific monitoring at the TDS:

- 1) Leachate quantity, quality, and treatment processes, if required
- 2) Run-off, including nearby waterways
- 3) Air quality for toxins and contaminants

The data from this monitoring must be made publicly available, which is the purpose of this section. Quarterly reports have been developed and submitted to the Maui County Council as follows:

Report	Dates
1	1/21/2024 – 4/21/2024
2	4/21/2024 – 7/20/2024
3	7/19/2024 – 10/17/2024
4	10/18/2024 – 1/15/2025
5	1/16/2025 – 4/16/2025
6	4/17/2025 – 7/15/2025

The quarterly reports are posted [here](#).

1) Leachate

Due to the dry conditions in West Maui, baseline sampling of run-off water was collected directly from the leachate basin two days after a significant storm event on January 9, 2024. Approximately 3” of rain fell over 24 hours during this storm event, generating approximately 500,000 gallons of run-off, which was collected in the leachate basin. At the time of the storm, no ash or debris had been placed in the TDS working area, so the run-off represented typical precipitation run-off un-impacted by waste, therefore considered typical of what normally runs off the natural soils present in the area.

Since the preliminary, baseline sampling event, USACE has sampled the leachate basin periodically, and plans to continue sampling leachate monthly directly from the leachate basin if a 1” or greater storm event occurs within that month.

Table 2 shows the analytes and parameters analyzed by environmental laboratories, along with the results from samplings conducted by USACE to date. Not all parameters shown below were analyzed by the laboratory during each event, as additional parameters were added at the request of DOH and Maui County after the baseline sampling event on January 11, 2024.

Table 2. Leachate monitoring analytes and parameters.

Parameter	Method*	1/11/2024 (Baseline)	1/30/2024	2/8/2024	2/13/2024	2/20/2024	4/15/2024	5/20/2024	2/3/2025	Units
TSS	SM 2540D	316	46	32	8	-	39	23	5.9	mg/L
TDS	EPA 2540C	NS	NS	289	315	-	670	730	NS	mg/L
TOC	EPA 5310C	NS	NS	7.96	9.16	-	7.0	11	NS	mg/L
COD	EPA 410.4	NS	NS	15.5	12	-	38	59	35	mg/L
Turbidity	EPA 180.1	650	103	NS	NS	-	80	11	14	NTU
Total Alkalinity	EPA 2320B	NS	NS	69.9	74.1	-	44	42	NS	mg/L
Nitrogen-Total	EPA 351.2	NS	NS	15.9	16.5	-	22	21	1.4	mg/L
Nitrates	EPA 353.2	NS	10.1	14.4	15	-	21	15	17	mg/L
Nitrites	EPA 353.2	NS	0.369	0.74	0.59	-	0.32	1.5	0.27	mg/L
Oil & Grease	EPA 1664B	< 5.0	3.9	< 5.0	9	-	1.5	1.4	2.6	mg/L
TPH	EPA 1664B	< 5.0	NS	NS	NS	-	4.1	4.0	NS	mg/L
DRO (C10-28)	EPA 8015D	NS	NS	NS	NS	-	250	290	NS	µg/L
Chlorine	EPA 330.4	NS	< 0.01	0.317	0.283	-	ND	ND	NS	mg/L
Hex Chromium	EPA 218.6	NS	0.185	NS	NS	-	NS	NS	NS	mg/L
Cyanide-Total	EPA 9012A	NS	NS	NS	NS	-	0.021	ND	ND	mg/L
Carbonate		NS	NS	1.2	5	-	6	5.6	NS	mg/L
Ammonia	EPA 4500	NS	NS	NS	NS	-	ND	0.11	0.066	mg/L
Sulfide	EPA 9034	NS	NS	0.057	0.058	-	ND	ND	ND	mg/L
Sulfate	EPA 300.0	NS	NS	107	121	-	230	240	NS	mg/L
Dioxins / Furans (2,3,7,8-TCDD)	8290A	NS	-	-	< 1.9	< 2.0	ND	< 2.1	NS	pg/L
PCBs (total)	8082A	NS	NS	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	NS	ug/L
Herbicides (2,4-D)	8151A	NS	NS	NS	ND	ND	0.78	ND	NS	µg/L
Pesticides	8081B	NS	-	-	NS	ND	ND	ND	NS	µg/L
VOCs	8260D	NS	ND	-	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	µg/L
SVOCs	8270D/E	NS	-	-	NS	ND	ND	ND	NS	µg/L
DO	EPA 360.1	NS	NS	9.53	9.91	-	6.5	5.0	8.5	mg/L
pH	EPA 9040C	NS	NS	8.21	8.88	-	7.4	8.5	NS	
Total Metals (ICP)	6010D									
Beryllium		< 0.010	0.00048	-	< 0.0015	0.030	ND	ND	NS	mg/L
Vanadium		0.13	0.019	-	0.013	0.92	0.017	0.011	NS	mg/L
Chromium		0.136	0.013	-	0.0075	0.56	0.024	0.0055	ND	mg/L
Cobalt		0.026	0.0033	-	0.0019	0.4	0.0028	0.0020	NS	mg/L
Nickel		0.078	0.011	-	0.0063	0.38	0.0085	ND	NS	mg/L
Copper		0.042	0.007	-	0.0047	0.23	ND	ND	NS	mg/L
Zinc		< 0.100	0.017	-	0.0052	0.49	0.0048	ND	NS	mg/L
Arsenic		< 0.010	0.0027	-	0.0027	<0.16	ND	ND	ND	mg/L
Selenium		< 0.010	< 0.005	-	< 0.025	<0.16	ND	ND	ND	mg/L
Molybdenum		< 0.010	0.0021	-	0.0024	<0.02	0.0074	0.0061	NS	mg/L
Silver		< 0.010	NS	-	< 0.008	<0.04	ND	ND	ND	mg/L
Cadmium		< 0.010	NS	-	< 0.0035	<0.01	ND	ND	ND	mg/L
Antimony		< 0.010	-	-	< 0.0011	<0.16	ND	ND	NS	mg/L
Barium		0.251	0.04	-	0.025	2.6	0.037	0.025	0.030	mg/L
Mercury	7470A	< 0.0002	< 0.0002	< 0.0002	< 0.0002	0.085	0.14	ND	ND	mg/L
Thallium		< 0.010	NS	-	NS	<0.12	ND	ND	NS	mg/L
Lead		< 0.010	0.00096	-	0.0042	<0.071	ND	ND	ND	mg/L

Note: Lab methods may vary. Data from parameters included in the baseline event not sampled in subsequent sampling events is not included.

Abbreviations & Symbols:

<: less than

COD: chemical oxygen demand

EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency

ND: nondetect or below limits of detection

NTU: nephelometric turbidity unit

SVOC: semivolatile organic compound

TOC: total organic carbon

TPH: total petroleum hydrocarbons – oil

VOC: volatile organic compound

µg/L: micrograms per liter

pg/L: picograms per liter

mg/L: milligrams per liter

NS: not sampled

PCB: polychlorinated biphenyl

TCDD: Tetrachlorodibenzo-P-dioxin

TDS: total dissolved solids

TSS: total suspended solids

LOQ: limit of quantitation

2) Nearby Waterways

Because there have been no observable releases of leachate from the TDS site, there has been no need to sample surface water in creeks or drainage ditches adjacent to the TDS.

DOH continues nearshore water quality monitoring, with data available on the [DOH website](#). DOH continues to affirm that these data show that there are no ash/debris or fire-related chemicals present in the surface water at concentrations of human health concern and are consistent with background levels.

3) Air Quality

There are several air monitoring stations (a.k.a. 'PurpleAir Sensors' and 'DustTrak' monitors) in the vicinity of the TDS, which are operated, maintained, and monitored by either DOH or a contractor to USACE. The air monitoring equipment provides data for both Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 and 10, which correspond to the size of the particulate matter in micrometers (or microns), which represent one millionth of a meter. The measurement units for PM are expressed in micrograms/cubic meter, or $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, which is basically the weight of the total dust particles (in micrograms) in a defined area of space (one cubic meter). The smaller the particle (i.e., 2.5 microns), the deeper into the respiratory tract and lungs the particles can penetrate and either cause or exacerbate existing respiratory health problems. More information on the health effects of particulate matter pollution can be found [here](#).

The locations of the PurpleAir monitors operated by DOH are found in Figure 1. Monitoring data can be viewed at DOH's [Maui Data Portal](#).



Figure 1. Locations of air monitors near Olowalu.

In addition, a contractor to USACE is collecting air monitoring samples following a DOH-approved plan at the TDS site. A summary of data collected to date at various locations around the TDS site (monitors are not always placed in the same location depending on wind conditions) can be found in Table 3. Dust monitoring was paused at the end of April, as the TDS was temporarily capped and ceased operations. Monitoring resumed in mid-June when excavation and hauling of ash/debris from the TDS site to the PDS at the Central Maui Landfill started.

DATE	Average PM10 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Average PM2.5 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Monitor #s
23-Jan to 13-July	see previous reports		
14-Jul	24.5	6.5	1,2
15-Jul	23	4.5	1,2
16-Jul	25	5	1,2
17-Jul	25	5.5	1,2
18-Jul	22.5	4.5	1,2
19-Jul	21.5	3.5	1,2
20-Jul	23.5	5.5	1,2
21-Jul	26	7	1,2
22-Jul	28	8	1,2
23-Jul	28	9	1,2
24-Jul	29	10	1,2
25-Jul	25.5	5.5	1,2
26-Jul	23.5	6	1,2
27-Jul	25	9	1,2
28-Jul	25	9	1,2

DATE	Average PM10 (ug/m ³)	Average PM2.5 (ug/m ³)	Monitor #s
29-Jul	50	5.5	1,2
30-Jul	49.5	6	1,2
31-Jul	55	6	1,2
1-Aug	53	6	1,2
2-Aug	52.5	6.5	1,2
3-Aug	48.5	4.5	1,2
4-Aug	50.5	6.5	1,2
5-Aug	48	5	1,2
6-Aug	47	3	1,2
7-Aug	51	4.5	1,2
8-Aug	46	5.5	1,2
9-Aug	48.5	5.5	1,2
10-Aug	46.5	5.5	1,2
11-Aug	51	7.5	1,2
12-Aug	49.5	5.5	1,2
13-Aug	45	2.5	1,2
14-Aug	46.5	3	1,2
15-Aug	48.5	4	1,2
16-Aug	50	7.5	1,2
17-Aug	45	3.5	1,2
18-Aug	7.5	3.5	1,2
19-Aug	10	4	1,2
20-Aug	13.5	4	1,2
21-Aug	13.5	5	1,2
22-Aug	16.5	6	1,2
23-Aug	20	12.5	1,2
24-Aug	19	14	1,2
25-Aug	14	5.5	1,2
26-Aug	11.5	5.5	1,2
27-Aug	14	6	1,2

Table 3. Air monitoring data collected at the TDS site.

USACE has established an 'Action Limit' of 35 for Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) and 150 for Particulate Matter (PM 10). Engineering and/or operating controls such as water sprays and limiting truck speed are implemented in the event of any exceedance of an Action Limit.

Finally, USACE conducts personnel air monitoring according to an Air Monitoring and Sampling Plan (AMSP) using personal air cartridges directly on-site workers. The results are evaluated against criteria based on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Permissible Exposure Levels (PELs) and/or the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) Threshold Limit Values (TLVs). All sampling results to date collected from excavator operators and laborers have not found any exceedances of these health-based criteria, so this activity was largely discontinued in late June 2024.

4) Groundwater

To comply with Bill 120, USACE installed temporary groundwater monitoring wells (MW) adjacent to the TDS site. An upgradient (uphill) MW and downgradient (downhill) MW were installed at the TDS site in June – July 2024 as shown in Figures 2 & 3. A well completion report was submitted to the County by USACE in August 2024 with specific construction details.

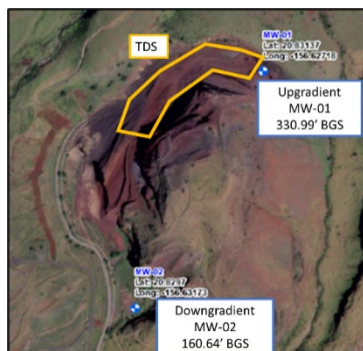


Figure 2. Locations of groundwater monitoring wells.



Figure 3. Groundwater monitoring well MW-02.

Samples are collected and analyzed quarterly (every 3 months, see Table 4), which is a typical frequency for waste storage and disposal facilities.

Table 4. Quarterly groundwater monitoring events.

Sampling Event	Date
1	7/7/2024
2	10/8/2024*
3	2/8/2025
4	5/5/2025
5	8/5/2025

*A re-sampling for this event was held in 12/2024.

The first samples taken on July 7, 2024, were considered 'baseline' samples, since MW-01 and MW-02 were newly installed, and there were no previous sampling data from them to compare. The analysis includes the analytes and parameters found in Table 5, which includes contaminants or indicators of contaminants present in the TDS leachate in 2025 (see Section 1, Table 2).

Table 5. Analytes and parameters for groundwater samples (2025).

Major cations & anions	7/7/2024 MW-01 Q3 2024 (Baseline)	2/8/2025 MW-01 Q1 2025	5/5/2025 MW-01 Q2 2025	8/5/2025 MW-01 Q3 2025	7/7/2024 MW-02 Q3 2024 (Baseline)	2/8/2025 MW-02 Q1 2025	5/5/2025 MW-02 Q2 2025	8/5/2025 MW-02 Q3 2025	Units
Magnesium	12000	12000	11000	11000	17000	16000	15000	15000	ug/L
Sodium	78000	71000	64000	67000	130000	120000	110000	120000	ug/L
Calcium	15000	14000	13000	13000	21000	21000	21000	21000	ug/L
Potassium	5400	5100	4600	4700	7600	7400	7100	7100	ug/L
Chloride	100	110	110	110	190	200	170	210	mg/L
Carbonate	ND	ND	6.0	6.0	ND	6.0	6.0	6.0	mg/L
Sulfate	19	16	16	17	25	26	27	29	mg/L
Major Indicators									
TDS	210	280	290	300	350	480	450	460	mg/L
TOC	4.6	1.9	1.5	0.90	0.58	1.4	1.1	0.97	mg/L
Total Alkalinity	69	60	60	56	67	61	63	61	mg/L
Ammonia (as Nitrogen)	0.09	0.090	0.09	0.086	0.05	0.090	0.09	0.076	mg/L
Iron	140	65	170	190	380	660	2700	1100	ug/L
Field Parameters									
pH	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.7	S.U.
Turbidity	2.5	2.3	12	7.2	18	16	60	95	NTU
Metals									
Arsenic	ND	1.7	0.74	1.7	ND	1.7	1.7	1.7	ug/L
Lead	ND	0.17	0.5	0.24	ND	3.2	0.5	0.25	ug/L
Antimony	ND	0.5	0.5	0.5	ND	0.5	0.5	0.5	ug/L
Cobalt	0.84	0.54	0.69	0.23	0.19	0.4	0.17	0.4	ug/L
Copper	2.5	0.67	0.93	0.86	0.72	1.2	1.1	0.9	ug/L

Abbreviations & Symbols:

mg/L: milligrams per liter

MW: monitoring well

ND: nondetect or below detection limit

NTU: nephelometric turbidity unit

TDS: total dissolved solids

TOC: total organic carbon

µg/L: micrograms per liter

The baseline sampling data from MW-01 and MW-02 are used to evaluate any changes or impacts to groundwater from the TDS site as quarterly sampling data continues to be collected and analyzed. All groundwater data is evaluated by the County of Maui and DOH to determine whether there are any impacts to groundwater from the TDS site, and if so, what action(s) may be necessary after closure and removal of the TDS site to address them. Due to the thick liner (80 mil, or 0.08 inches) underlying all ash and debris in the TDS and the leachate basin to prevent infiltration, along the distance between these bottom liners and the uppermost groundwater level (between 150 – 350 feet), it is unlikely that the TDS site will have any impact on groundwater.

5) Background Soils

A pre-construction assessment divided the TDS site into five decision units—or set areas—to analyze pre-existing soil conditions for contaminants. Analytical results from this assessment, summarized in Table 6, will be used once debris has been removed from the site, as the soil will be sampled at similar locations for the analysis of constituents. The pre-assessment results will serve as a data comparison. Both the pre-construction and post-construction data will be evaluated by the County of Maui and DOH to conclude whether any action is necessary prior to final grading of the TDS area. Planning is currently underway for the closure and restoration of the TDS site.

Table 6. Analytical results from background soil sampling at TDS site.

Constituent (mg/kg)	DU-1 (mg/kg)	DU-2 (mg/kg)	DU-3 (mg/kg)	DU-4 (mg/kg)	DU-5 (mg/kg)
Antimony	0.18	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19
Arsenic	1.4	1.5	0.73	0.584	0.94
Barium	15	15	32	40	39
Beryllium	0.56	0.66	0.6	0.75	0.66
Cadmium	0.093	0.13	0.094	0.099	0.1
Chromium	0.81	1	0.84	0.53	7
Cobalt	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.2	3
Copper	1.6	4.9	1.6	0.86	4.9
Lead	2.1	1	1.1	0.97	2.2
Molybdenum	0.51	0.54	0.5	0.67	0.9
Nickel	0.79	1	0.92	0.53	9
Selenium	4.9	5.4	3.6	3.2	3.7
Silver	0.046	0.021	0.047	0.048	0.047
Thallium	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.14
Vanadium	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.0	8.5
Zinc	48	51	44	49	52
Mercury	0.010	0.011	0.0096	0.010	0.011
Oil Range Organics	18	26	30	29	30
Gasoline Range Organics	2.9	1.1	1.6	1.7	1.5
Diesel Range Organics	32	33	28	30	16

Abbreviations: DU: decision unit mg/kg: milligrams per kilogram