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**Department of Health conditionally approves defueling of Red Hill tanks, setting stage for defueling to begin**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) has conditionally approved the Joint Task Force-Red Hill (JTF-RH) plan to defuel the main tanks of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility beginning October 16, 2023.

DOH approval is contingent on JTF-RH adherence to the plan to remove fuel from the Red Hill underground storage tanks and other requirements set forth by DOH in its conditional approval letter. DOH staff will be on-site to oversee defueling.

"Today's conditional approval marks an important milestone in the process that will ultimately result in permanent closure of the Red Hill Facility and remediation of our aquifer," said Deputy Director of Environmental Health Kathleen Ho. "Many people have worked for many months to reach this milestone, and we appreciate and fully expect that the Joint Task Force will continue to uphold its commitments to the people of Hawai'i and our environment."

"We commend the leadership of the Department of Health in this ongoing crisis, and we want the public to know that my administration will continue to insist on transparency and accountability as the defueling of the bulk storage facility progresses," said Governor Josh Green, M.D. "All of us in leadership positions — whether government, community organizations and, of course, the military — have to work together to ensure the water and the land at Red Hill and the aquifer under it, will be remediated properly and expeditiously. Clean water for future generations must be our shared goal," the Governor said.

Leading up to this decision, DOH oversaw completion by JTF-RH, of 297 repairs and enhancements needed for repacking and defueling. DOH also observed various spill drill exercises and the successful defueling of the four surge tanks in July and repacking of the F-24 and JP-5 pipelines from August to September.

Click [here](#) to read the DOH conditional approval letter.

**DOH Conditional Approval of Red Hill Defueling Plan**

Protecting the health and environment for all people in Hawai'i

The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) has conditionally approved the Joint Task Force-Red Hill's (JTF-RH) Defueling Plan. Below are the next steps in the defueling process:

 JTF-RH submits Defueling Plan May 2023	 DOH & EPA conditional approval of Defueling Plan June 2023	 DOH approves quality validation reports for repairs September 2023	 DOH observes RESPONSE DRILLS July & August 2023	 DOH approval to DEFUEL SURGE TANKS July 2023
 DOH approval of PIPELINE REPACKING August 2023	 DOH approval to DEFUEL MAIN TANKS October 2023	 DOH approval to DEFUEL TANK BOTTOMS October 2023	 DOH approval of PIPELINE UNPACKING	 DOH approval to REMOVE RESIDUAL FUEL

Updated 10/10/23

Click [here](#) to download a graphic illustrating the path to defueling.

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