

**DHA Responses to Select Written Public Comments  
Current as of March 9, 2024**

Meredith Wilson  
Fuel Tank Advisory Committee Meeting – 3/7/24 Comments

The most recent NDAA also requires a briefing by the Secretary of Defense to congressional defense committees by the end of *this* month.

The topics to be covered are:

- Descriptions of the contaminants themselves,
- their potential health impacts in drinking water,
- and any potential benefits for broadening the health implication tracing window *prior* to May 2021.

**When will this briefing take place and will it be publicly available?**

**DHA Response:** *Ms. Wilson is referring to the FY23 NDAA, which was signed into law on December 23, 2022. In Section 337, there was a requirement for a briefing to Congress on health implications of the Red Hill fuel release. The briefing was required within 90 days of passage of the law. This was provided to Congress through, specifically the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) and the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), in May 2023. Defense Health Agency, who authored the briefing slides, and the Under Secretary of Defense, Personnel and Readiness, who approved the briefing slides, are not authorized to publicly release any briefings or reports that are mandated by Congress. Congress has sole authority to release briefings or reports. However, the content of what was briefed has been publicly shared through past Fuel Tank Advisory Committee meetings and the January 9, 2024 Defense Health Agency Public Health webinar. DHA will have another webinar on April 9, 2024, and we can review the essential elements of what was included in the Section 337 briefing, and answer any other questions.*

At November's FTAC, Rear Admiral Barnett mentioned that the SecDef will also be the one to provide report to Congress about the (3) Non-Fuel Re-Use plans and would get this information out to the group. Any update on this?

**DHA Response:** *(This question not addressed by Defense Health Agency Public Health.)*

**Next, has DHA itself already briefed any congressional committees? If so, which ones & when?**

**DHA Response:** *See above. There was not a formal briefing to the HASC or SASC, or any of their subcommittees. After DoD released the Section 337 briefing slides to these committees, Defense Health Agency Public Health met with several of the Hawaii Congressional delegation staff members in May 2023 to answer questions generated from their review of the slides.*