



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

8 DEC 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR MS. MEREDITH BERGER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE  
NAVY (ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)  
PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF  
THE NAVY

SUBJECT: Red Hill Underground Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Interagency Working Group

Reference: Secretary of the Navy Memorandum, December 7, 2021

Per the reference, I set forth the Department of the Navy (DON) intent to continue to build upon our robust collaboration with Federal, State, and Local governments, and Native Hawaiian organizations, to respond to the incident and improve future operations at Red Hill. I am fully committed to working with all entities, to ensure a safe drinking water supply for the future. In furtherance of the reference, I direct you to immediately establish a Federal Interagency Working Group to assist with DON efforts to take care of our people, to remediate the root causes of this incident, to implement installation improvements, and to take all necessary actions to ensure safe drinking water and safe operation of the Red Hill facility.

A holistic evaluation of optimal response measures for Red Hill requires the diversity of experience and perspectives of many different agencies. Therefore, the Working Group should comprise subject matter experts from across the Federal government, including the Military Departments, the Defense Logistics Agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other appropriate Federal agencies. Additionally, State, Local, and Native Hawaiian representatives are vital to the discussions and should be invited to Working Group meetings to exchange views and information. You will lead the coordinated efforts of the Working Group and integrate the views of all invited State, Local, and Native Hawaiian stakeholders. The Working Group should focus on:

- o Summarize the existing oversight framework, as established by statute, regulation, instruction, or otherwise, including a description of roles/responsibilities and coordination mechanisms, and make necessary recommendations that would improve operations at Red Hill.
- o Identify methods to restore potable water to communities affected by petroleum in the tap water.
- o Identify mitigations to ensure continued availability of a source of potable drinking water.
- o Determine public outreach and stakeholder engagement efforts to ensure transparency on all efforts relating to this response effort.

To complete your review, you may obtain the substantive subject matter expertise, administrative, and logistical support from DON civilian employees and uniformed personnel. You will have access to all relevant information necessary to complete your review, unless prohibited by law. In addition, all elements of the Navy and the Marine Corps shall provide full support and cooperation as you conduct the review.

You will update me on your progress as well as the input and insights of Federal agency participants, and participants from outside the Federal government. You shall report to me immediately on identified actions that support the restoral of safe and reliable potable water to our communities, and actions to enhance our communication as we take care of our people. You shall also report to me at 30 day intervals until the DON has implemented the necessary protocols to protect the health and well-being of our service members, civilians, their families, and our surrounding communities.

This direction is effective immediately.



Carlos Del Toro

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