

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

RESOLUTION NO. 848, 2014

REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO DIRECT THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET TO APPROVE THE REGULATION OF FIELD CONSTRUCTED UNDERGROUND FUEL TANKS AND URGE THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY TO STUDY THE IMPACTS OF RED HILL FUEL RELEASES ON OAHU'S GROUNDWATER

WHEREAS, the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility is located near Pearl Harbor and operated by the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, the Red Hill facility was built between 1940 and 1943 and contains twenty cylindrical tanks that can hold up to 12,500,000 gallons of fuel in each tank; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2014, the Navy reported a 27,000 gallon leak of JP-8 aviation fuel from Tank 5 to various federal, state and county agencies which prompted the Board of Water Supply (BWS) to temporarily shut down five water wells in the vicinity of the Red Hill facility as a proactive and precautionary measure to ensure the continuous safety of drinking water to the public; and

WHEREAS, studies commissioned by the Navy report past fuel releases from the facility dating back to 1949 and document the impact of corrosion on the steel fuel tanks, the presence of fuel contaminants in the groundwater and soil beneath the facility and the risks of large releases of fuel to the groundwater aquifer and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the BWS Halawa Shaft is approximately 5,000 feet northwest of the Red Hill facility and is one of the department's largest water source that provides water to thousands of Oahu residents; and

WHEREAS, the bottom of the Red Hill tanks is only 100-feet above the aquifer that serves as a source for drinking water, and the recent fuel leak and the findings of past Navy studies are of great concern to the BWS as to its potential impact to the long term quality and quantity of this important groundwater aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the Red Hill facility is a field constructed underground storage tank facility that is currently exempt from virtually all existing federal underground storage tank (UST) regulations under Title 40 Code of Federal Regulation Parts 280 and 281; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published on November 18, 2011, proposed changes to the UST regulations that would cancel the deferral of field constructed USTs from the federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, EPA's proposed rules are currently being reviewed and needs approval from the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); and

WHEREAS, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loan Assistance and Other State Programs set-aside are able to provide states with direct assistance in the form of grants for source water protection area delineation, assessments and wellhead protection programs; and

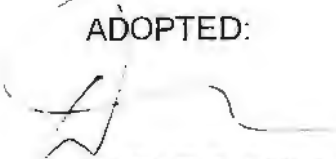
WHEREAS, BWS would like to take immediate action and use the state set-aside funds for the design, construction, and testing of additional monitor wells to determine the impact of fuel releases beyond the Red Hill boundary on Oahu's groundwater aquifer; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Members of the Board of Water Supply, City and County of Honolulu, that we respectfully request THE PRESIDENT of the United States to support EPA's proposed changes to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulation Parts 280 and 281 to regulate field constructed USTs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Members of this Board respectfully request THE PRESIDENT direct OMB to approve EPA's changes as written and regulate field constructed tanks to protect Oahu and the nation's groundwater aquifers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Members of this Board request THE PRESIDENT urge EPA to release drinking water set-aside state funds directly to BWS to use for the design, construction, and testing of additional monitor wells to enable BWS to proactively assess the impact of fuel releases beyond the Red Hill boundary on Oahu's groundwater aquifer.

ADOPTED:



DUANE R. MIYASHIRO  
Chair

Honolulu, Hawaii  
October 27, 2014