



## FACT SHEET

## UNPACKING

### What is Unpacking?

Unpacking is the process of removing fuel from the pipelines connecting the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage tanks with outlets on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Approximately 1 million gallons of various grades of fuel have been left in the pipelines since the facility ceased operating in November of 2021. Removing this fuel from the pipes is essential and the first step to carry out repairs and maintenance identified by the Department of Defense and the State of Hawaii Department of Health as necessary to safely defuel the entire Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

### Prioritizing Safety

Unpacking is the most urgent step towards defueling and ultimately closing the RHBFSS. Joint Task Force – Red Hill is committed to a robust culture of safety to minimize operational risk. Many additional safety measures were put in place prior to the start of unpacking:

- **Operating Procedures** for unpacking were validated by independent third-party experts
- **Installation** of flood barriers, pumps/totes, spill mats, and sandbags
- **Closure** of drains and sealing of cracks and holes throughout the pipeline tunnels to prevent any potentially spilled fuel from reaching groundwater
- **Spill Exercises** practicing emergency response conducted in cooperation with state and federal regulators
- **Observers** and watch officials placed at critical points
- **Additional water testing** at the Red Hill Well and the surrounding aquifer prior to, during, and following the completion of unpacking the fuel lines.

### The Fuel

There are three product lines to be unpacked:

- **F-24**, a commercial grade jet fuel, with approximately 162 thousand gallons in the F-24 pipeline
- **JP-5**, a kerosene-based jet fuel, with approximately 216 thousand gallons in the JP-5 pipeline
- **F-76**, a maritime diesel fuel, with approximately 691 thousand gallons in the F-76 pipeline

### The Phases

Each pipeline will go through a four-phase process to completely empty it of fuel:

- In **Phase I**, preparatory tasks are completed with a focus on inspecting for safety and reliability and ensuring emergency response processes are in place.
- In **Phase II**, valves are function-checked and cycled and pressure within the pipes is equalized with the outside environment.
- **Phase III** begins fuel movement. In this phase, known as gravity drain-down, valves along the pipeline are opened to allow fuel to begin to flow into permanent holding tanks or fuel barges on the joint base. This process is expected to take one day each for the F-24 and JP-5 lines and two days for the F-76 line.
- **Phase IV** is the final phase of unpacking and uses pumps to remove any remaining fuel from low points in the fuel line that gravity was unable to empty. If needed, this process will take less than a day for each line.

Throughout unpacking, DOH officials will be on hand to monitor and ensure compliance with applicable regulations.