

Community Representation Initiative

The Parties to the 2023 Administrative Consent Order (ACO) established the Community Representation Initiative (CRI) in response to the need, expressed by the community in public comments on the proposed ACO, for an interactive relationship among the Parties and interested Hawaiian and community stakeholders. The meetings of the CRI are for the purposes of reviewing progress in defueling, closure, and implementation of the drinking water requirements; and facilitating early discussion and continued flow of information among community members and stakeholders, Navy, DLA, and EPA. The CRI is also to develop operating procedures and ground rules and meet twice a quarter. As the Navy/DLA transition from Joint Task Force Red Hill focused on defueling to Navy Closure Task Force responsible for permanent closure, remediation and drinking water, it is timely to take a moment to define our meeting structure and other commitments to attain improved information sharing. Therefore, Navy and DLA are establishing the following framework for future CRI meetings to align with the ACO.

1. Meetings will be scheduled no less than twice per quarter and invitations will be issued by Navy in coordination with the CRI. The ACO assigns the role of setting up the CRI to Navy and DLA. It directs Navy and DLA to institute the CRI (2.3.1) and to inform the community about the CRI (2.3.1.3). The ACO also specifies that meetings will occur twice per quarter (2.3.1.4) and specifies that the Parties to the ACO (Navy/DLA/EPA), with input from other CRI participants, will “determine whether to modify the frequency” (2.3.1.4). The CRI participants include the ten representatives of the community, the ACO signatories (Navy/DLA/EPA), and other federal and state agencies that may choose to participate.

2. Meeting agendas will be set by the Navy and DLA, in coordination with the ten community representatives, and will address the topics specified in the ACO. Agenda topics will relate to defueling, closure, and implementation of drinking water requirements. Matters that are currently the subject of litigation will not be subject to discussion.

3. Meetings will conform to the description and serve the functions set forth in the ACO. The ACO requires Navy and DLA to “attend CRI meetings..., present regular updates to the CRI, provide CRI participants with opportunities to provide individual comments on key aspects of the projects’ progress, and provide presentations on topics of interest, as requested.” (2.3.1.6). Therefore, meetings will include Navy/DLA updates, CRI participant commentary, and Navy/DLA presentations concerning the ACO-specified agenda topics discussed above

4. Timely responses to questions. Appropriate organization (Navy, DLA or EPA) will respond to questions within the scope of the ACO in the interest of “facilitating early discussion and continued flow of information” (2.3.1.5). Agencies will identify a key contact and a date by which a response will be shared.

5. *Navy will assign a lead coordinator for the CRI to discuss logistical items in preparation for meetings.* This CRI coordinator will facilitate the enhanced understanding of items expected for presentation.

6. *Meetings will be in person, and may be livestreamed or recorded to afford public transparency.* To keep the public informed about CRI meetings, the ACO provides that Navy and DLA are to also produce a summary of each CRI meeting and post it on a public-facing website within a week of the meeting (2.3.1.7).

7. *Meetings will be in venues selected by Navy in coordination with all CRI members.* This will facilitate the Navy/DLA presentations required by the ACO (2.3.1.6).

8. *All participants in CRI meetings are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner during communications with other participants.* CRI participants are to be heard and participate, give and receive updates and information, and represent their communities.

9. *CRI meetings will be facilitated by a professional facilitator provided by the Navy.*