NEWS RELEASE FROM THE NAVFAC HAWAII PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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Wastewater Bypass at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Required Notifications Made by the Navy

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii – On Sunday evening, July 28, and later on Monday morning, July 29, the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii's Wastewater Treatment Plant experienced a 30 minute and 15 minute partial bypass at the effluent sand filtration system overflow weir. During the bypass, the plant discharged approximately a total of 18,000 gallons of fully treated and disinfected secondary effluent through its deep multiport outfall without polishing effluent sand filtration.

The bypass was caused by higher than normal amounts of solids that passed through the secondary treatment process which caused clogging of the sand filtration polishing system. The sand filtration is one of the final advanced processes after full secondary treatment just prior to ultraviolet disinfection. It is an enhancement to improve the effluent quality and remove residual material following the fully functional secondary treatment system.

Effluent quality is expected to remain within permit limitations. Treated effluent was disinfected through the ultraviolet disinfection system prior to being discharged into Mamala Bay through the plant's 12,500 foot long outfall and 150 foot deep, multi-port diffuser where it was assimilated into the receiving waters with the assistance of ocean currents.

The Navy made all necessary notifications to the State Department of Health as required by the wastewater treatment plant's operating permit. It is expected that the bypassed secondary treated and disinfected effluent would be naturally dispersed with minimal human health and environmental impacts.

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii's Wastewater Treatment Plant provides advanced secondary treatment of both domestic and non-domestic wastewater. Advanced secondary treatment uses clarifiers, an activated sludge process, aeration/anoxic tanks, effluent sand filtration and UV disinfection.

For more information about NAVFAC Hawaii and/or Naval Facilities Engineering Command visit: ***www.navfac.navy.mil***.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command: The Facilities and Expeditionary Combat Systems Command

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