

# US EPA Statement on the Red Hill Community Representation Initiative

June 2024

The Community Representation Initiative (CRI) was added to EPA's 2023 Red Hill Administrative Consent Order ("ACO") with the Navy and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in response to substantial comment on the draft ACO on the need for public participation in decisions that impact community members. The CRI was intended to include representatives from the community who would engage with Navy, DLA, and EPA to review and provide input on key decisions and serve as liaisons to the wider community.

Since its formation in September 2023, the CRI has held regular monthly meetings which have been open to the public. Meeting agendas, locations, format, and facilitation have all been set by the CRI elected members. The structure of the CRI meetings presented challenges to Navy, DLA, and EPA in establishing productive engagement with community members.

In March 2024, EPA invited the Navy, DLA, and CRI elected members to participate in a mediation process facilitated by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to generate a mutually agreeable set of ground rules for CRI meetings going forward to align with the original intent and meet the objectives under the 2023 ACO. CRI elected members declined to participate in the mediation.

EPA, Navy, and DLA moved forward with mediated discussions and produced [draft ground rules](#) which we proposed to the CRI elected members in May of 2024 which included an EPA provided, third party facilitator. The ground rules focused on shifting the ownership of the meeting, including agenda-setting and facilitation, to be a collaborative process with the facilitator working with EPA, Navy, DLA, and the elected CRI members to collectively set the agenda. On June 12, the CRI elected members shared written comments on the draft ground rules. EPA, Navy and DLA are reviewing and will discuss the provided comments.

Until an agreed upon set of ground rules are established, EPA will not enforce the requirement for Navy and DLA to participate in CRI meetings.

EPA recognizes that CRI meetings are a valuable forum to connect with the community to provide updates specific to EPA's role in overseeing the 2023 ACO. EPA will participate in the June 2024 CRI meeting to provide information relating to EPA's oversight of the 2023 ACO and the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam drinking water system.