

# From Contaminated to Clean in Mere Days

Calgon Carbon Provides Swift Solution  
for Urgent Water Treatment Needs

Pearl Harbor – Hickam AFB  
Oahu, HI

**PROJECT  
PROFILE**





In late November 2021, just as the holiday season approached, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) was faced with a serious water crisis brought on by an unintentional fuel release by numerous residents who not only reported petroleum odors coming from their tap but also began experiencing adverse health effects from ingesting the water. In December, an Interagency Drinking Water System Team (IDWST) was formed and Calgon Carbon was chosen to coordinate an emergency response in record time.

As residents were relocated to temporary housing, Calgon Carbon got to work coordinating a high-level water recovery effort, alongside the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and independent contractors, to provide equipment and granular activated carbon as a crucial part of the rapid response.

The Calgon Carbon team was able to move from inquiry to installation in a matter of days — dramatically reducing and streamlining a process that can typically take several months to complete. Collaboration involved countless hours of around-the-clock communications, accelerated drawings, weekend revisions, contract negotiations, superior engineering support, and a dedicated field service representative who traveled to Hawaii to ensure a smooth process and act as an on-the-ground contact during the restoration efforts. Four large Model 10 carbon adsorption vessels were rapidly deployed and shipped to Mather Air Force Base near Sacramento, CA, where they were then transferred to U.S. Air Force cargo planes for immediate delivery. Calgon Carbon also mobilized 120,000 lbs. of FILTRASORB® granular activated carbon, enough carbon to fill or refill six vessels, to ensure prompt delivery of purified drinking water to the affected area and its residents. "This was a commendable collaboration between many parties. Calgon Carbon's contribution was to utilize our emergency preparedness expertise to mitigate further water contamination and restore safe, clean drinking water," says Amber Simonic, executive director of the Drinking Water Solutions division at Calgon Carbon.

"Making clean water is at the heart of what we do."

— Amber Simonic

Executive Director of the  
Drinking Water Solutions division  
at Calgon Carbon

Calgon Carbon redefined what it means to provide effective emergency response. The challenge to coordinate, mobilize, and condense a lengthy process and bring about an efficient and successful outcome was met through the time-tested capabilities and professional execution of a seasoned team of experts. While the holiday season typically means delays across most industries, Calgon Carbon answered the call to provide a service for military personnel and civilians alike. Drinking water standards were restored to the base in early 2022 and the U.S. Navy will continue monitoring as well as provide any clean-up efforts in Oahu over the next two years to ensure the safety of the water supply at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. This critical response is evidence that Calgon Carbon continues to deliver the expertise and precise action that customers have come to rely upon.

For more information regarding Calgon Carbon's emergency response or general inquiries, please contact the Drinking Water Solutions group at [dws@calgoncarbon.com](mailto:dws@calgoncarbon.com) or call 1-800-4CARBON. ●



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