

PESTICIDE FACT SHEET

OHANA MILITARY COMMUNITIES HELELOA

OMC is committed to ensuring its residents are safe. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide residents with an overview of the use of pesticides in Hawaii, background on the Heleloa Family Housing Community, and a summary of how pesticide impacted soil, if present, was managed to ensure the safety of Heleloa residents.

Use of Pesticides in Hawaii

Chlordane and other similar pesticides are chemicals that were legally used to protect homes and businesses from termites throughout the United States from the late 1940s to 1988 when their use was banned by the United States Environmental Protection Agency because of concerns about damage to the environment and harm to human health. Because Hawaii's climate is very conducive to ground termite infestation, local pest control companies, homeowners, the city and county, and the state and military regularly used these pesticides until 1988. The most common treatment method was to apply chlordane and related pesticides into the soil beneath and around building foundations. Because these pesticides were the most commonly used pesticides to control termites in Hawaii, the City and County of Honolulu has stated that they can be found "universally" throughout the island. Even though it has been 26 years since the use of these pesticides was banned, they break down slowly in the environment, so residual amounts may be present near housing and businesses throughout the United States, both on and off military installations, including Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH).

Health Effects of Termiticides

As the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) recently explained: "Health effects from exposure to organochlorine pesticides have been documented in cases involving high-level exposure, such as during pesticide application, or due to intentional or accidental poisoning. **We are not aware of any documented cases of health effects due to exposure at the low levels associated**

with organochlorine pesticide residues in soil. In addition, the EALs [described below] have several conservative safety factors to further ensure that there will be no health risk to children who may be potentially exposed to residual pesticide levels in soil. We therefore believe it is **extremely improbable** that residents' health concerns are linked to exposure to potential low-level residual pesticides in soil." (Emphasis added.)

Site Background

The Heleloa Family Housing Community, formerly known as "Hilltop," is located on the Mokapu peninsula on MCBH, encompassing about 20 acres of land. The neighborhood consists of 22 single-story housing units and one two-story housing unit, all of which are single family homes. The units were originally built around 1940, and it is the only remaining historic family housing neighborhood on MCBH.

Ohana Military Communities, LLC (OMC), the lessee, through a Public-Private Venture (PPV) lease with the Navy, renovated the 23 units within the Heleloa neighborhood in 2009. Renovations included new appliances, interior renovations, and the construction of detached garages.

How Was Soil Managed During Construction

Due to the historic use of chlordane and other organochlorinated pesticides throughout MCBH, pesticides may still exist in the soil near the foundation and under the building slabs in this neighborhood. However, any such pesticides are below the surface and covered by gravel, grass, or other ground cover.



Conclusions

Based upon the Soil Management Plan, the soil testing performed by OMC, and the other issues and precautions discussed above, OMC is confident that the soil in the Heleloa Family Housing Community is safe. As discussed above, the pesticides at issue were commonly used throughout Hawaii and the United States, and people live safely around soil with low levels of these pesticides. If you feel you would like to take additional steps, you might consider:

- Ensuring that the ground cover around the foundation of your home is maintained (the highest concentrations of chlorinated pesticides were found in subsurface soils within a few feet of the foundations of existing structures);
- Keeping children or pets from playing in dirt near the foundation of your home;
- Not growing edible produce near the foundation of your home (in the Ohana Military Communities Handbook, residents may not till or destroy the lawn to plant a vegetable garden; however, raised garden beds are acceptable and are encouraged).

Additional Information

Additional information can be found:

On our website: <http://yourmcbhhousing.com/>

On the Department of Health Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response website: <http://eha-web.doh.hawaii.gov/eha-cma/Org/HEER/>

On the Department of Agriculture website: <http://archive.jan2013.hawaii.gov/hdoa/pi/pest>

In your Community Handbook.