

Notice of Public Comment Period Closure, a New Application Revision, and Decision to Approve the Injection Well Modifications at Hu Honua Bioenergy, Pepe`ekeo, Hawai`i by the Hawai`i State Department of Health Underground Injection Control

September 23, 2019

The Hawai`i Department of Health (DOH) has received from Hu Honua Bioenergy, LLC, a new Underground Injection Control (UIC) revised application (second revision) that proposes to use cooler saline water for condenser cooling instead of the fresher upper aquifer water. The cooler saline water will be extracted from three (3) deepened onsite supply wells. This second revision is in addition to their first revision to deepen the three (3) injection wells, that DOH originally approved for 400 feet, to 800 feet. The proposed change to saline cooling water lessens the potential for fresh water aquifer contamination and is expected to lower the temperature of the condenser cooling water being discharged into the environment.

Because of this second revision, we have closed the comment period on the first revision. The DOH will open a new comment period for this second revision after the injection wells are constructed to 800 feet, the injection wells are tested, the groundwater effects are evaluated, and the refined groundwater model and ocean monitoring station results are validated and recalibrated. Thus, the DOH has determined that the approval-to-construct the three (3) injection wells to 800 feet shall be granted to complete these actions.

After injection testing, the injection wells will be capped or secured in a manner that will prevent their use until a permit to operate the injection wells is issued. A permit to operate the injection wells will not be issued until DOH is satisfied with the results of all related actions.

The three (3) injection wells are located at:

Applicant: Hu Honua Bioenergy, LLC

Address: 28-283 Sugar Mill Road Pepe`ekeo, Hawai`i 96783

Application No.: UH-3051

Facility: HU HONUA BIOENERGY, LLC

Location: 28-283 Sugar Mill Road Pepe`ekeo, Hawai`i 96783

TMK No. 3rd Division, 2-8-08:104

Central Latitude: 19° 50' 36.03" N

Central Longitude: 155° 05' 11.15" W

The second revision of the UIC application is available for download in PDF format (13 MB) from <https://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/files/2019/09/20190806-HonuaBioAppl-v9.pdf>, or will be available for review Monday through Friday between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays, at the Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB); UIC Program; Uluakupu Building 4; 2385 Waimano Home Road, Suite 110; Pearl City, Hawai`i 96782-1400. You may also request a copy of the revised application, by sending an email to sdwb@doh.hawaii.gov, fax to (808)586-4351, postal mail to the SDWB address above, or call (808) 586-4258. Updates and revisions to the application will be posted at <http://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/public-notices/>.

An opportunity to comment on the UIC Well permit modification application will be opened after the injection wells have been constructed and tested and the final report containing the refined groundwater model and monitoring results are made available for public review. No decision will be made on whether or not to grant a permit to operate until the comment period ends. The opening of the comment period will be announced and posted at <http://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/public-notices/>. All comments must be transmitted in writing to Ms. Joanna L. Seto, P.E., of the SDWB at the email address or street address above. The Hawai'i DOH will also consider whether to hold an additional public meeting.

BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.

Director of Health