



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING FEB. 1 ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED HAWAIIAN IRRADIATOR

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public meeting in Honolulu on Feb. 1 to seek public comment on a draft environmental assessment for a proposed irradiator to be built and operated adjacent to the Honolulu International Airport. Based on the draft assessment, the NRC concludes that there would be no significant environmental impact from the proposed facility.

The meeting will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Dr. The NRC staff will be available to meet informally with members of the public beginning at 6 p.m., followed by a formal meeting from 7 - 9 p.m.

During the meeting NRC staff will describe the process it used to develop the draft environmental assessment for the application filed in June 2005 by Pa'ina Hawaii, LLC for the irradiator license. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the environmental assessment during the formal part of the meeting. Members of the public can also listen to the meeting via a special telephone line by calling 1-800-638-8081, and entering passcode 1883# at the prompt.

The irradiator would be used primarily to kill harmful bacteria, insects and parasites on fresh fruit and vegetables bound for the United States mainland from the Hawaiian Islands and produce imported to Hawaii, as well as sterilize cosmetics and pharmaceutical products. It would also be used for research and development projects and to irradiate a range of other approved items.

The NRC staff's environmental assessment considered potential impacts to the health of the public and workers at the facility, transportation of the radioactive material, socioeconomics,

ecology, water quality, and the effects of aviation accidents from the nearby airport and natural phenomena.

The draft environmental assessment is available on the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/materials.html> by selecting "Pa'ina Irradiator" in the Key Topics box. Additional information on irradiators is available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/commercial-irradiators.html> .

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