

Pa'ina Irradiator

On June 27, 2005, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received a license application from Pa'ina Hawaii (Pa'ina), requesting a license that would authorize the use of sealed radioactive sources in an irradiator for the production and research irradiation of food, cosmetic, and pharmaceutical products. The proposed irradiator would be located immediately adjacent to Honolulu International Airport on Palekona Street near Lagoon Drive. The irradiator would primarily be used for phytosanitary treatment of fresh fruit and vegetables bound for the mainland from the Hawaiian Islands and similar products being imported to the Hawaiian Islands as well as irradiation of cosmetics and pharmaceutical products. The irradiator would also be used by the applicant to conduct research and development projects, and irradiate a wide range of other materials as specifically approved by the NRC on a case-by-case basis.

The NRC completed its final evaluation of the proposed irradiator against the requirements found in the NRC's regulations at Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 36, "Licenses and Radiation Safety Requirements for Irradiators," (i.e., 10 CFR Part 36). Typically, the licensing of irradiators is categorically excluded from detailed environmental review as described in the NRC regulations at 10 CFR 51.22(c)(14)(vii). However, the NRC staff entered into a settlement agreement with Concerned Citizens of Honolulu (Concerned Citizens), which included a provision for the NRC staff to prepare an [environmental assessment](#) (EA) and to hold a public comment meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii prior to making a final decision. In support of the staff's environmental review, the NRC obtained contract assistance from the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analysis to prepare a Topical Report which discusses potential impacts from aviation accidents and natural phenomena.

The NRC staff held a public comment meeting on the draft EA on February 1, 2007, at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu with approximately 80 members of the Public in attendance. The NRC staff gave a brief presentation of the draft EA and took public comments and submissions. After the public meeting, approximately 270 public comments were received. The staff considered the public comments in completing the final EA. The [safety evaluation](#) of the proposed irradiator focused primarily on the safety, physical security, and emergency preparedness aspects of byproduct material used in the irradiator. [Appendix B](#) of the final EA presents the staff's consideration of terrorist attacks on the proposed facility in response to public comments. [Appendix C](#) of the final EA summarizes the issues identified in public comments and provides the NRC response.

The Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was published in the [Federal Register](#) August 17, 2007. A [materials license](#) was issued to Pa'ina Hawaii on August 17, 2007. In September 2007, Concerned Citizens filed contentions challenging the adequacy of the Pa'ina EA. In December 2007, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) admitted two of Concerned Citizens' contentions. This case is expected to go to a hearing before the ASLB to address issues raised in Concerned Citizens' contentions. However, the ASLB has not set a hearing date yet. Hearing-related documents may be reviewed by visiting the [NRC's Electronic Hearing Docket](#) or by visiting the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> . Other documents associated with Pa'ina's application for a materials license can also be reviewed in ADAMS by entering Docket No. 03036974 in Advanced Search or by using other search terms.