

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 02/03/06

EDO CONTROL: G20060072
DOC DT: 01/13/06
FINAL REPLY:

Governor Linda Lingle
State of Hawaii

TO:

Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 06-0044

Chairman Diaz

DESC:

Proposed Plant Irradiation Facility in Hawaii

ROUTING:

Reyes
Virgilio
Kane
Silber
Dean
Cyr/Burns
Strosnider, NMSS

DATE: 01/24/06

ASSIGNED TO:

RIV

CONTACT:

Mallett

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Ref. G20050800. Note: Immediate release of
incoming to public/processed in ADAMS per SECY thru
EDO/DPC.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jan 23, 2006 15:21

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-06-0044 **LOGGING DATE:** 01/23/2006
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: GOV Gov. Linda Lingle
AFFILIATION: HI-GOV
ADDRESSEE: Nils Diaz
SUBJECT: Concerns the proposed Plant Irradiation Facility at Honolulu International Airport

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF

LETTER DATE: 01/13/2006
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: OCM#8303
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: ~~02/06/2006~~ 2/7/06 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20060072



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

January 13, 2006

CHAIRMAN REC'D
06 JAN 23 AM 9:26

Mr. Nils J. Diaz
Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Diaz:

I appreciate the assistance your Commission has been providing in the permitting of a proposed Plant Irradiation Facility at Honolulu International Airport on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. This facility, to be operated by a private entity, is seen as a key part of the State's plan to expand our exports of Hawaiian grown fruits and vegetables. The facility will also be used to screen incoming produce, essential in our efforts to avoid the importation of foreign pests and invasive species into the islands.

Given the importance of this facility to the growth of Hawaii's agricultural sector, I have asked the State Department of Agriculture and the Department of Transportation to monitor the progress of the project. This has included discussions with the communities who are in the geographic areas near the proposed irradiation plant. These community briefings have resulted in requests from local environmental groups and certain State legislators for formal hearings on this project before your Commission.

Their concern stems from the proposed use of cobalt-60 technology that would be used in the irradiator. In particular, they have asked that either an environmental assessment or a full environmental impact statement be prepared.

The purpose of my letter is to better understand how the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) addresses the safety, health, and environmental considerations that this type of irradiation facility raises. As Governor, I would like to be able to assure the citizenry of Hawaii that every precaution has been taken to meet the safety and health concerns of the surrounding community.

I understand your office prepares a record of environmental consideration prior to the granting of a license for this type of facility. An explanation of the scope and procedures used by the NRC might help address the concerns that have been raised.

I look forward to hearing from you. Ms. Sandra Lee Kunimoto, Chairperson of the State Board of Agriculture, is my point of contact on this issue. She can be reached at 808-973-9550.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE

cc: Sandra Kunimoto