

From: "Lance Holter"
To: Nancy Rumrill/R9/USEPA/US|||EPA
Date: 06/23/2009 10:21 AM
Subject: REQUEST for PUBLIC HEARING ON LAHAINA WASTEWATER
INJECTION WELL PERMIT

From Lance Holter, Chairman Hawaii Sierra Club-Maui Group
Our organization represents 6500 members statewide and 700 in Maui County. We
request a hearing on the injection well permit, thank you
Lance Holter, tele 579-9442 and address
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Title:
REQUEST for PUBLIC HEARING ON LAHAINA WASTEWATER INJECTION
WELL PERMIT

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Ground Water Office, WTR-9
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I oppose the granting of the permit unless additional conditions are placed on the permit as set forth in the letter of the DIRE Coalition to EPA. While they have identified a range of issues and concerns to which EPA has not spoken previously or which they have newly identified, they have not provided you with anywhere near all the supporting data in their letter. They are in the process of gathering these data (and preparing their presentation) and will provide them to you at the public hearing we are requesting. (This is the link for the letter DIRE sent to EPA http://dontinject.org/?page_id=155)

http://dontinject.org/?page_id=15

Q3. How do you know that the Lahaina injection well wastewaters are flowing into the ocean?

A3. We know this for several reasons. First, Dave Taylor, Division Chief, Wastewater Reclamation Division, Maui County said so in his Nov. 2008 testimony at the EPA hearing: “The other water, about four million gallons, maybe a little less, goes down the injection wells. The injection well water is — does not go through the ultraviolet treatment. It goes down these deep pipes into the ground, they go down a couple hundred feet. And that water moves outward through the ground, eventually it comes out into the ocean.” – Testimony of November 6, 2008, “EPA Public Hearing on Lahaina Waste Water Injection Permit,” p. 8, lines 15-21. See also Mr. Taylor’s exchange with Mr. Seebart at p. 13, lines 10-25.

Second, Maui County’s web site (answer to Q. 10) says that “independent studies detected injection well discharge in some areas of algae blooms . . .” Third, former Mayor Arakawa, who also previously was responsible for running the Lahaina wastewater treatment plant testified at the same hearing that the wastewaters go into the ocean: “in Kahului, the water goes into the injection well, it comes out almost immediately at the ocean side. We can even see traces of it bubbling up almost as a stream. In Lahaina, we’re not much further. I believe the effects of the water getting into the ocean is a lot sooner than what we think.” See p. 81, lines 15-21.

Finally, Hawaii Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DNLR) concurs and cites University of Hawaii data to support this concern: “. . . recent scientific studies have provided evidence that the injection well plumes are percolating up into the near shore waters where the reef degradation is occurring.”