June 24, 1983

Dear Colonel Thiede:

Proposed General Permit PODCO SPGP 1
State Program General Permit
State of Hawaii

We recognize the need to expedite the permit process and reduce unnecessary assessment for minor non-significant actions. However, we are concerned with the broad exemptions from environmental assessments that will be instituted by the proposed general permit.

The proposal does not specify that environmental specialists on the Corps staff will be involved in the process for determining whether an application for a general permit should be approved. The need for environmental specialists in the review process is essential to assure adequate evaluation of the proposed action.

There is a need for some form of public notice alerting citizens of proposed actions for which general permit applications are made. This public notice may be covered by Conservation District Use permit procedures. Another avenue of public notice may be through the notification of general permit applications to the State of Hawaii's Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC), and thence to the public through the EQC bulletin.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments and look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

Doak C. Cox
Director

cc: OEQC
Ray Tabata
George Balazs
Ralph Moberly
Fris Campbell
Sheila Conant
Brent Gallagher
Bryce Decker
Jacquelin Miller
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER