



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

July 22, 1988
RP:0092

Mr. James Ikeda, Acting Director
State Department of Health
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801

Dear Mr. Ikeda:

Slaughterhouse Permit
Up-Country Meats, Inc.
Kula Glen, Maui

Because of our interest in ground water protection, the proposed development of a slaughterhouse by Up-Country Meats, Inc. at Kula Glen, Maui, was recently brought to our attention.

The Environmental Center conducted a brief review of the above referenced project with the assistance of Roger Fujioka, Public Health; Reginald Young, Engineering; Henry Gee, Water Resources Research Center; and Belinda Tilley, Environmental Center. Based on the information provided in the Building Permit Application, the experience and expertise of our reviewers particularly with respect to environmental concerns relevant to slaughterhouse wastewater disposal needs and practices, and the information available from literature specifically directed to municipal and industrial waste load projects in Hawaii, we have concluded that this slaughter house poses a high potential to produce significant environmental impacts to the ground waters at Kula Glen, Maui. Extreme caution and careful evaluation of the project is warranted prior to decisionmaking if contamination of ground waters is to be avoided. The following comments are offered for your consideration.

Waste Disposal

According to the Building Permit Application, the slaughterhouse facility would have the capability of slaughtering up to 80 head of cattle a day and thus will generate large volumes of waste. The handling and disposal of both liquid and solid waste streams requires careful assessment in accordance with Hawaii statutory rules. As soils are particularly porous in this region, special care must be taken to avoid ground water contamination. According to Table V-12 of the report, "Water

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Quality Program for Oahu with Special Emphasis on Waste Disposal", Final Report Work Area 2A, Municipal and Industrial Waste Load Projects, June 1971, some 4000 to 5000 gallons of waste water are produced per cow processed. Assuming 80 cows per day, we estimate that approximately 400,000 gallons of waste water will be produced daily. The application refers to a .11 acre lagoon, sized for 500,000 gallons, to receive the effluent. Pan evaporation studies for this area reveal that the expected evaporation from a .11 acre surface area is 640 gallons per day. Given these figures, it is apparent that either there will be some 400,000 gallons of liquid waste discharged each day from the lagoon or there will be an equivalent amount seeping into the ground. We have no information on which alternative is being proposed, but we note that significant pollutant problems including affects on ground water quality would occur in either case.


Odor

Odor is also a major problem with slaughterhouses. In this regard the proximity of the proposed slaughterhouse to residential areas poses another significant concern.

As presently proposed, the construction and operation of the slaughterhouse at Kula Glen, Maui, poses a high risk to the ground water of that region and hence to public health. We urge that the Department of Health take immediate action to require a satisfactory waste treatment system to be developed prior to approval of this project.

We appreciate your consideration of these concerns and look forward to your response.

Yours truly,


Jacquelin N. Miller
Associate Environmental Coordinator

cc: OEQC

L. Stephen Lau
Roger Fujioka
Reginald Young
Henry Gee
Belinda Tilley