

Puna Geothermal Venture
Geothermal Repower Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Public Comment Meeting
June 1, 2023 – Pāhoa Neighborhood Facility

Proposed Action Information Sheet

What is the Proposed Action?

Puna Geothermal Venture is currently authorized for and is operating a geothermal power plant in the Puna District and proposes to replace the 12 current operating power-generating units with up to four energy converters. The Proposed Action (also referred to as the Project) would increase the production of renewable energy at the existing facility (within the current site fence line) using new, more efficient units on a smaller land footprint compared to the existing units. The Project would increase power production from 38 to 46 megawatts in Phase 1 and further increase production to 60 megawatts in Phase 2.

As part of the Project, the existing 12 steam and brine energy converters would be replaced with three new energy converters in Phase 1 (and one (1) additional converter in Phase 2) at a new location on the Project site. The amount of power generated in Phase 1 matches the amount approved in the Amended and Restated Power Purchase Agreement. Puna Geothermal Venture would need to further amend the agreement prior to implementing Phase 2 which would increase power generation to 60 megawatts.

The overall size of the Project site would remain the same. Most of the existing infrastructure and buildings would remain for the Project including administration buildings, the control room, maintenance areas, well pads, and the gathering system.

What does the Draft Environmental Impact Statement include?

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared in accordance with Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes and Chapter 11-200.1 Hawaii Administrative Rules. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement includes two action alternatives, which were developed in coordination with the County of Hawai'i Planning Department and the Hawai'i Energy Office: (1) Proposed Action which includes both phases of the project for a total of 60 MW of geothermal energy production and is based on the amount of energy allowed by the Geothermal Resource Permit issued by the County of Hawai'i; and (2) 46 MW alternative which includes the 8 MW increase for a total of 46 MW (based on the amount of geothermal energy production approved by the PUC in the amended contract).

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzes potential impacts from the two action alternatives, and also a "no action" alternative, to the following 12 resources: geology; hydrology; air quality and climate change; noise; biological resources; socioeconomics and environmental justice; historic resources; cultural practices; aesthetics; hazardous materials and solid waste; public health and safety; and transportation and access. The document describes potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to these resources, and identifies potential protection and mitigation measures that should be implemented to minimize or avoid potential impacts.