



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

BARBARA HASTINGS

[BAH@HASTINGSANDPLEADWELL.COM](mailto:BAH@HASTINGSANDPLEADWELL.COM)

808-987-7799

**Puna Geothermal Venture to Hold Public Comment Meeting on Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Pahoa, HI — May 24, 2022 — Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) will host a public comment meeting Thursday, June 1st from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Pahoa Neighborhood Facility, 15-2906 Pahoa Village Road, Pāhoa, HI 96778. The meeting will provide background information and an opportunity for public comment regarding PGV's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which was prepared in connection with the proposed Puna Geothermal Repower Project ("the Project"). The DEIS was published in the Environmental Notice on May 8, 2023.

The session will begin with an informational open house from 4:30-5:20 p.m., opening remarks at 5:20 p.m., and from 5:30-7:30 p.m., oral comments will be accepted (to be recorded via audio and video).

"During the open house, representatives will be available to answer questions and provide information about the purpose of the Project and the DEIS," said Michael Kaleikini, Ormat's senior director, Hawai'i Affairs. "Following, there will be ample time for all to make their comments for the record," said Kaleikini.

The public comment period on the DEIS is open until June 22, 2022. Comments can be made in person at the June 1 meeting or can be submitted in writing at the meeting, via email to [michele.lefebvre@stantecgs.com](mailto:michele.lefebvre@stantecgs.com) and [planning@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:planning@hawaiicounty.gov), or mailed to Michele Lefebvre, P.O. Box 191, Hilo, HI 96721 and County of Hawaii Planning Department, Aupuni Center, 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3, Hilo, HI 96720. All substantive comments will be addressed in the next phase of the process, which is preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

On March 16, 2022, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approved an amended contract between PGV and Hawaiian Electric, with the condition that PGV perform an EIS. Stantec, a contractor working for PGV, began work on the EIS in early 2022. The EIS's two action alternatives were developed in coordination with the County of Hawai'i Planning Department and the Hawai'i Energy Office. The 8 megawatt (MW) increase alternative is based on the amount of geothermal energy production approved by the PUC in the amended contract, and the 60 MW total production alternative is based on the amount of energy allowed by the Geothermal Resource Permit issued by the County of Hawai'i.

Following development of the alternatives, Stantec identified the need for five baseline reports: (1) air quality; (2) noise; (3) biological resources; (4) archaeology; and (5) cultural impacts. These technical studies are incorporated into the DEIS. In total, the DEIS 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; socioeconomic and environmental justice; historic resources; cultural practices; aesthetics; hazardous materials and solid waste; public health and safety; and transportation and access. The DEIS 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.

The Project would be constructed within the current PGV facility fence line, replace current units with more efficient and quieter equipment, and increase capacity of the geothermal plant from 38 to 46 megawatts. Under the amended contract, pricing for energy would be decoupled from oil costs with no escalation. “With the Project, we will be able to produce clean energy more efficiently for Hawai’i Island. Geothermal is a firm source of renewable energy and is a key part of meeting the state’s goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2045,” said Kaleikini.

The full DEIS is available [here](#). The appendices can be found [here](#).

More information about the EIS process can also be found on PGV’s website:  
<https://punageothermalproject.com/eis/>

ABOUT PGV— Puna Geothermal Venture has been producing electricity from geothermal resources since 1993. Prior to the 2018 eruption, it was providing over 38 megawatts of power. PGV was acquired by Ormat Technologies in 2004. Ormat provides clean, reliable energy solutions from geothermal and recovered energy as well as energy management and storage solutions. Its U.S. operations are based in Reno, NV.

###