

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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For Immediate Release: April 12, 2006 06-27

DOH CITES PUNA GEOTHERMAL VENTURE, FOR AIR PERMIT VIOLATION

The Hawaii State Department of Health Clean Air Branch (DOH), has issued a Notice of Violation (Docket No. 05-CA-EO-14) against Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV), for exceeding their 1-hour average hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) permit limit of 25 parts per billion (ppb). On August 25, 2005, during the clean-out of geothermal well Kapoho State 6, PGV's monitoring station B recorded a 1-hour average H₂S level of 789 ppb during the 1300 hour time period. PGV reported the exceedence to DOH as required by its permit.

H₂S has an odor of rotten eggs and is a gaseous compound formed by the decomposition of organic matter. H₂S is regulated under Hawaii Administrative Rules §11-60.1-68 and a penalty of \$4,800 was paid by PGV.

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