

Betsy,

Thanks for the opportunity to update the NARSC on the progress and efforts of NEON.

NEON has proceeded to address the NARSC requirement to ensure that the Laupahoehoe site is the only location that will satisfy the requirements as the NEON Pacific Tropical Domain Core site. Consequently NEON has been acting in coordination with the USFS Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, IPIF, to identify potential alternatives to the proposed Laupahoehoe location.

During the week of August 23-27, 2010, NEON sent a complete team to Hawai'i that included the relevant disciplines to evaluate alternative locations. These included the NEON Project Manager, the Director of Facilities and Civil Construction, the Director of EH&S and Permitting, the Product Team Lead for the Fundamental Instrument Unit (tower), and the Assistant Director of Facilities and Civil Construction. The site visit was coordinated and attended by representatives of the IPIF.

During the initial site visit evaluation, NEON considered locations in the following areas:

1. Waiakea Forest Reserve near the Kulani Correctional Facility.
2. Waiakea Forest Reserve near mile marker 19 on Saddle Road.
3. Kulani Correctional Facility near Hilo.
4. Kona Hema Preserve, The Nature Conservancy near south Kona.
5. Private property off Saddle Road

The NARSC had initially recommended that NEON consider the Kulani Correctional Facility as a potential alternative. While the forest initially appears to meet the requirements of the NEON project, Ms. Colleen Cole, Coordinator of the Three Mountain Alliance, has indicated that this site is being considered as a future NAR and may be as difficult as the Laupahoehoe site to permit. Consequently, NEON is limiting our evaluations of the alternatives to the remaining sites.

Looking forward, NEON is planning meetings with the State of Hawaii DLNR DOFAW, The Nature Conservancy, as well as the private landowner to further identify the potential of these sites. I want to thank the NARSC for your continued interest in the NEON project.

NEON wishes to acknowledge the support of the local IPIF team, in particular, Drs. Christian Giardina and Susan Cordell, without which the recent effort would not have been possible.

Mahalo,

Jody Bolyard

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Jody Bolyard
Director, EH&S

NEON Inc.
5340 Airport Blvd.
Boulder, CO 80301
720-746-4845
jbolyard@neoninc.org
www.neoninc.org