

- Q: I am a member of American Whitewater Association/Recreational Kayaking; whitewater rafters on Waimea River. Are you aware if the project will negatively impact recreational paddling? We need 100 cubic feet per second (cfs) on the gage to make paddling feasible. Since the 2017 Waimea Mediation Agreement when the flows were augmented, we've experienced more user days.
  - KIUC: It's difficult to predict what impact WKEP will have. The project will be allowed to take up to 11 million gallons per day (mgd) from the streams on a rolling average. Once the project is in operation, during low- to median-flows, there should be more water in the streams.
  
- Q: When do you anticipate the “end of life” for the solar battery array? Can we see the decommissioning plan now instead of later; before final plans are complete? Do you have any projects on Kaua‘i that will be decommissioned before this project?
  - AES: The decommissioning plan will be in place before construction starts and the decommissioning fund will be in place before the project becomes operational. The useful life of the battery is roughly 25 years. They will then be recycled off island by the manufacturer. The AES Lāwa‘i project has roughly 20 years left before decommissioning. At the end of the initial 25-year contract, it is expected that the solar panels will be still be producing at roughly 80% output.
  - KIUC: We had some battery sites installed in 2010 that have since been decommissioned. They were not lithium ion batteries. There were two projects at Port Allen: each had 1,200 lead-acid batteries. Another in Kōloa had 1,200 lead-acid batteries. KIUC contracted an environmental specialist to work with our electricians to take them out of service, disconnect, and remove. They were packaged and transported to the mainland for recycling.
  
- Q: What will happen to the hydro portion of the project when the solar batteries are decommissioned? Will it become simply flow-through hydro? Is this really a “legacy” pumped storage hydro project?
  - KIUC: At the end of the 25-year term for the solar we will have several options. One option would be to extend the term of the solar component. Or we could power the storage aspect of the hydro portion with newer solar projects KIUC might undertake. Pumped storage has an indefinite life with no “life cycle” limitations. It is incumbent on us as a utility to maintain long-duration storage capabilities as we look toward our 100% renewable future.
  
- Q: My rooftop system uses 210-watt panels. Are 500-watt panels available to the public?
  - AES: The 500-watt technology is new and is utilized mostly for industrial/large applications.

- Q: What happens if climate change reduces water availability and there is only water available from the reservoirs and not the streams? Would it then be considered a closed loop system? If you needed more water, couldn't you take water from Pu'u Lua? How do you prevent "wasting" of water that might be diverted but not used for agriculture?
  - KIUC: We're following the Waimea Mediation Agreement: above all, streamflow must be protected. Beyond that, the agreement allows for up to 11 mgd rolling average can be used to provide hydropower and irrigation water. Water won't be "wasted" with this project: it will always be used for hydro production, it is also available for irrigation purposes by DHHL and ADC.
  
- Q: What is the status of comments submitted on the Draft Environmental Assessment? When will we receive a response?
  - KIUC: We are currently reviewing all comments and will be working on responses and revisions so the final draft can be submitted to DLNR. We don't have a firm time frame for final submission. If you'd like to receive updates please send your email address to [connections@kiuc.coop](mailto:connections@kiuc.coop) and we will keep you informed.
  
- Q: What happens when there isn't water? When there isn't water to sustain the people of Kauai?
  - KIUC: WKEP's allowable water usage has been determined by the Commission on Water Resources Management. Significant changes would be considered by CWRM and the interim instream flow standard would be set accordingly. The current IIFS was set by CWRM in the Waimea Mediation Agreement in 2017.
  
- Q: If CWRM is required to take another look at the IIFS, would that affect the feasibility of the project?
  - KIUC: Changes will impact the project, but the question is how much. IIFS is a complicated concept: it depends on whether the stream is at a low-, median- or high-flow level. Lower diversion amounts will negatively impact power output and irrigation water availability.