

Merz, Jeff

From: noreply@hirep-wind.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 3:12 PM
To: Johnston, Douglas; Merz, Jeff
Subject: [HIREP Wind EIS] New Comment

A New Comment has been Submitted

NEPA and HEPA require a study of alternatives. The Preliminary Notice studies only wind and “no action.” There is no study of wave, OTEC, solar, geothermal, or conservation. Agencies and citizens have acknowledged that in a state Senate hearing that the study of alternatives was required.

The PN has no mention of the military’s role in Big Wind. It is known that one of the proposed cable landing sites is Kane'ohe Marine Base, and that the military is one-third of HECO’s O’ahu customer base. What role will the military play in Big Wind?

What are the proposed costs? Estimates for the cable have ranged from \$800,000 to \$2 billion. How will those costs be allocated? Where will the funds for the State’s portion come from?

Who will own the cable? Recent comments from HECO indicated the possibility of shared ownership -- State of Hawai'i and a private developer, such as Castle & Cooke. Recent HECO-sponsored legislation indicate a different manner of ownership. This needs to be clarified in the EIS.

How can a fair decision-making process be assured with the state Department of Economic Development and Tourism acting as both the applicant and accepting authority for the EIS?

What will be the impacts on community and lifestyle? In the case of wind, these are enormous projects with behemoth turbines, massive earth moving and huge disruptions of small rural communities.

Any and all taxpayer-funded relevant reports need to be made public immediately; not after the draft EIS is issued.

What is the impact of large wind projects to the threatened and endangered species, native ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and hunting areas? The EIS should include a description of the permits and approvals that will be need to take threatened and endangered species, and destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat.

What are the different scenarios for sources of wind and other energy? The EIS should describe such scenarios, their impacts, and proposed mitigation.

The EIS should describe and analyze the conservation alternative, especially on O'ahu, which would clearly have less of an adverse impact to wildlife, habitat, and other natural resources.

Submitted on Tue, Mar 01, 2011 / 03:12PM HST by Marjorie Ziegler, Conservation Council for Hawai'i

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