

## Merz, Jeff

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**From:** noreply@hirep-wind.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 09, 2011 11:24 AM  
**To:** Johnston, Douglas; Merz, Jeff  
**Subject:** [HIREP Wind EIS] New Comment

### A New Comment has been Submitted

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I recently had the pleasure of visiting Lanai. I am familiar with the EIS process and I wish to make the following comments, to be incorporated in the scoping process for the proposed wind farm.

I believe that the programmatic EIS needs to include an extensive discussion of the discipline commonly referred to as social equity. While it may come to pass that other environmental factors may weigh more heavily on the decision whether or not to proceed with development of the wind energy facility, I believe that at the present time the issues related to social equity and fairness are paramount in the minds of the residents of Lanai.

Social equity is a common concern and it has to do with an analysis of the economic costs and benefits and how those costs and benefits are allocated to various groups of people who are advantaged and disadvantaged by a particular program or facility. In this case it seems that many residents of Lanai are concerned that they will be paying environmental costs for a facility where the economic benefits flow to others elsewhere. It seems that a thorough analysis of the issues related to social equity will provide residents and decision-makers with the ability to discuss, develop and negotiate solutions which will help mitigate what might otherwise be a misallocation of costs and benefits.

The programmatic EIS process is an ideal mechanism for drawing out the facts as they relate to the distribution of costs and benefits, both environmentally and economically. While the actual costs may not be known at this time, it would not be difficult to model various scenarios as to how those costs and benefits might be allocated “naturally” and how they could be adjusted as part of a mitigation program in order to address concerns of social equity.

Submitted on Wed, Feb 09, 2011 / 11:24AM HST by Geoffrey Spelman

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