

SUBMISSION ON CONTACT ENERGY LIMITED'S APPLICATIONS FOR RESOURCE CONSENTS

To: Freepost Te Mihi Call In
Minister for the Environment
PO Box 10362
The Terrace
Wellington 6143

Email: temihicallin@mfe.govt.nz
Fax: 04 439 7705

[If you are emailing or faxing your submission, please mark in the subject line: 'Te Mihi Call In']

This submission relates to the applications for resource consents, lodged by Contact Energy Limited to establish, operate and maintain a geothermal power station and associated activities and identified on the next page.

CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSIONS: 5.00 PM FRIDAY 7 MARCH 2008

Title: Mr Mrs Miss Ms (Please circle the appropriate title(s) or print clearly below)

My/Our Full Name(s): **Ray Houghton**

Postal Address: **c/o Cheal Consultants, PO Box 165, TAUPO**

Work Ph: **07 378 6405**

Home Ph: Nil

Cell: Nil

Work Fax: 07 378 6447

Home Fax: Nil

Email: paulinej@cheal.co.nz

Please tick the relevant boxes on the next page to identify whether you are making a submission on all applications for resource consents or just some of them (please identify).

Please also indicate on the back of this form (✓) whether you support, oppose, or are neutral in relation to the applications for resource consents. If you are making a submission only on parts of an application for resource consent, please note this when specifying the reasons for your submission.

The reasons for my/our submission are:

If you are attaching further information tick for yes ✓

Please refer to the attached pages (two).

Please use more pages if you need to.

I/we seek the following decision from the Board of Inquiry (provide precise details including the nature of any conditions sought):

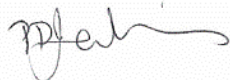
Decline the full proposal

Use a clear tick in the appropriate box below (v)

I/we **wish to be heard** in support of my/our submission (to speak at the public hearing)

✓

Signature(s):



Date: 07 / 03 / 08

(Signature of submitter, or person authorised to sign on their behalf is required. Note signature is not required for electronic (email) submissions. If this is a joint submission by two or more individuals, each individual's signature is required.)

Use the tick boxes below to indicate the called-in applications for resource consents that your submission concerns. Use a clear tick in the appropriate box or boxes (✓).

I/we make my/our submission concerning **all** applications for resource consents below ✓

OR

My/our submission **only** concerns the applications for resource consents that I/we have ticked below:

Taupo District Council – Resource Consents	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Application No. RM 070304: To construct, operate and maintain all structures and facilities associated with a geothermal power station on the Wairakei-Tauhara Geothermal System and including all ancillary equipment, except the new switchyard and 220kV transmission line equipment described in separate but associated Land Use Consent Applications.			
Application No. RM 070305: To construct, operate and maintain a new switchyard associated with, and adjacent to a new geothermal power station.			
Application No. RM 070299: To construct, operate and maintain a 220kV transmission line, associated support structures, equipment and facilities, associated with a new geothermal power station on the Wairakei-Tauhara Geothermal System, including realignment of a section of the existing Poihipi Road Power Station transmission line and modification works necessary to enable connection of the new line to the existing Wairakei-Whakamaru B transmission line.			
Environment Waikato – Resource Consents			
Discharges to Land and Groundwater			
Application No. WRC 116786: Discharge Permit to discharge up to 95 kilotonnes per day of geothermal water, steam condensate, cooling water blow-down, suspended material, and added chemicals into land and underground water through reinjection wells within the Wairakei-Tauhara Geothermal System (the area within the yellow boundary shown on Plan 124922-RC01 but excluding the yellow hatched areas).			
Application No. WRC 116787: Discharge Permit to discharge by irrigation up to 6,500 tonnes per day of cooling water blow-down and condensate onto land (and any seepage into underground water).			
Application No. WRC 116788: Discharge Permit to discharge up to 50 cubic metres per day of water including contaminants and sewage into land and underground water through septic tanks and associated soakage facilities.			
Discharges to Air			
Application No. WRC 116789: Discharge permit to discharge contaminants to air from a geothermal power station and associated structures.			
Application No. WRC 116790: Discharge permit to discharge contaminants to air from the Poihipi Road Geothermal Power Station and associated structures including geothermal wells, pipelines and geothermal steamfield equipment, to commence on 1 January 2012.			
Application No. WRC 116791: Discharge permit to discharge contaminants to air from geothermal wells, flash plants, pipelines and all associated geothermal steamfield equipment within the Wairakei-Tauhara Geothermal System			

Note: A copy of this submission form must also be sent to Contact Energy Limited as soon as possible at:

Contact Energy Limited – Te Mihi Power Station

PO Box 10742

Wellington

or email temihi@contact-energy.co.nz

or fax 04 463 9261

I/we have served a copy of my/our submission on the applicant per Section 96(4) of the RMA. ✓

**SUBMISSION BY RAY HOUGHTON
TO THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ON THE
PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW GEOTHERMAL POWER
STATION AT TE MIHI, TAUPO**

1. INTRODUCTION

This submission opposes Contact Energy's application to establish a new geothermal power station at Te Mihi, Taupo.

2. SUBMISSION

2.1 Ray Houghton is in opposition of the application to establish a new geothermal power station at Te Mihi, Taupo, for the following reasons:

i) Landscape and Amenity Values –

The proposed discharge permit to discharge contaminants to air from the proposed Te Mihi Geothermal Power Station will adversely affect the landscape and amenity values of the surrounding environment. The surrounding environment is rurally zoned and is comprised of lifestyle blocks and large areas of rolling pastoral and forestry land. The proposed discharge of contaminants to air will create steam that will visually detract from the landscape values of the area. This steam will degrade the existing character and amenity of the surrounding environment and will create cumulative adverse effects in combination with the existing discharge from the Poihipi Road power station.

ii) Safety Concerns –

Whilst the proposal's assessment of environmental effects emphasizes the remoteness of the proposed site, it is noted that Poihipi Road is a Regional Arterial Road (as per Taupo District Council's Planning Map B10), and therefore carries a high volume of commuter traffic. The intersection of State Highway One and Poihipi Road is at or over carrying capacity. Therefore any proposal which further increases the number of vehicles using the intersection is considered to create adverse traffic effects and further compromises the safety of the intersection.

Accordingly, should Consent be granted then the Applicant should be required to mitigate the traffic effects of the 200 employees traveling to and from the site and using the intersection. Taupo District Council and Transit NZ have already undertaken appropriate studies and identified possible solutions to the safety issues at the intersection. A change to the intersection layout is required.

iii) Odour –

The proposal's discharge of contaminants and odour to air will create amenity effects for those residents living in the surrounding area. There is already one power station on Poihipi Road in close proximity to the subject site. This will result in a cumulative adverse effect on the amenity of the locality.

iv) Reverse Sensitivity –

If resource consent is granted to the power station proposal the activity may impact on the development potential of surrounding rural land which is currently allowed in the district plan due to reverse sensitivity effects. This has occurred to properties in Centennial Drive, Taupo which cannot develop without Contact Energy's written approval as an affected party to any resource consent application. Contact Energy have requested restrictive covenants on the Certificates of Title of the affected land in exchange for written approval.