

riceres/steve

From: Gillian Dixon [Gillian.Dixon@mfe.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 15 June 2009 2:03 p.m.
To: 'riceres/steve'
Subject: Response to UNIGUP Draft Decision
Attachments: 20090615135421710_0001.pdf

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Hi Steve

Please find electronic copy of letter received today at the Ministry in response to the UNIGUP draft decision.

Regards

Gillian Dixon

Executive Officer

Project Implementation Team

Ministry for the Environment, 23 Kate Sheppard Place, (PO Box 10362) Wellington 6143 Tel.
04 439 7659

94 Stokes Road
RD 2
Cambridge
New Zealand

8 June 2009

Dear Sir

Upper North Island Grid Upgrade Draft Decision

I am writing to express my horror that the Board of Enquiry has given its draft approval to the grid upgrade by Transpower.

All through this long and drawn out process we ordinary New Zealanders have been confident that our voices would actually be heard and been of some account. We have always acknowledged that we were not experts in the field of energy transmission and generation and could not hope to stand up against paid technical experts or intimidating QCs, but we did feel that our concerns and comments were valid and based on extensive research and a genuine concern for our magnificent country.

Sadly, on reading the draft report, this is not the case. We enthusiastic amateurs have merely been tolerated, smiled at politely and thrown a toffee. It seems as if the only question asked of us by the Board was "Are there any pylons on your property?".

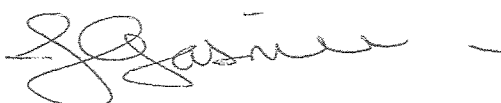
We, personally, may not be "affected", using Transpower's very narrow definition, but we bloody well are affected! The entire country is affected!

I implore the Board to reconsider its decision, if not permanently, but at least to demand up-to-date data on which to base its final decision. The original projections are now over five years old and, given the global economic meltdown, are hopelessly out of date. Transpower could not possibly have seen, or even factored in, the present financial situation, let alone the reduction in demand that has been evident in the past six months.

Only last week the government awarded \$500,000 to a company developing highly efficient transmission lines with no power loss. How ironic that New Zealand could have invented a brand new system of energy transmission but was too afraid to use it!

Please do not allow our beautiful country to be scarred for ever by an ugly outdated and monstrous white elephant. There are alternatives, have the guts to demand that Transpower use them!

Yours faithfully



JACK GASNIER