

SUBMISSION ON TRANSPOWER'S NOTICES OF REQUIREMENT AND APPLICATIONS FOR RESOURCE CONSENTS

Section 145 of the Resource Management Act 1991

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- 5 OCT 2007
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Submit to BOTH:

Minister for the Environment
Freeport Grid Upgrade Submissions
PO Box 4405
Hamilton East
HAMILTON 3247
Email: tpcallin@mfe.govt.nz
Fax: 04 439 7700

And Transpower
Freeport 182916
PO Box 1021
WELLINGTON
Email: submissions@transpower.co.nz
Fax: 04 519 7624

Please note: you must forward a copy of this submission to BOTH Ministry for the Environment AND Transpower, by any means you wish (post, fax, email)

This submission relates to the notices of requirement and/or applications for resource consent, lodged by Transpower New Zealand Ltd for the North Island Grid Upgrade Project, and identified below.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 5 OCTOBER 2007

Our Full Name(s): Barry and Freda Aldridge
Postal Address: 994 Storey Road, RD4, Ohinewai 3784

Barry and Freda Aldridge
FR Aldridge - 4/10/07

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Waikato District Council Overhead Line Notice of Requirement. Number: DES0011/07

We oppose the relevant notice of requirement and application for resource consent, for the above. The reasons for our views are on the following pages.

We seek the following decision from the Board of Inquiry

That the application for Notices of Requirement and Resource Consents should be turned down completely, and Transpower directed to investigate generation, conservation and transmission alternatives that will avoid this line being built under any circumstances.

We explicitly do not want the Board of Inquiry to approve the applications subject to conditions - we want the applications turned down in whole.

We do not wish to be heard in support of our submission at the public hearing.

We make our submission concerning notices of requirements and applications for resource consents relating Transpower's applications that will be heard by this Board of Inquiry. The references are NOR DES0011/07, . . .

We have served a copy of our submission on the applicant by copy to Transpower as above.



We
I wish to express our outrage at the proposed Transpower construction of the 400kV line, with up to 70 metre pylons desecrating our beautiful Waiterimu- Matahuru- Taniwha Valley. I am strongly opposed to this construction and feel there other alternatives such as using the A B C line route as a corridor, underground transmission, generating more power where the demand is, and educating the public in the use of power. The economic cost to Transpower and its customers will be astronomical. Our farm economic cost incalculable with the farm being split in two with the construction of the proposed line and pylons.

Refer to Transpower NZ Ltd, N I 400kV Backbone Investigation Project, Environmental Phase 2, Final Route Decision Report, Part 1. Report, July 2005.

Page 12 - Section 7E - Hapuakohe Range. "The range is very visible from State Highway 27". This observation has been taken into consideration when "determining a specific alignment in detail". One would assume this would be so as not to visibly offend the passing public on State Highway 27. Was the same consideration taken into account when deciding to use the following route?

Page 13 - Section 7W - Kopuku to Te Hoe. The Taniwha, Matahuru, Te Hoe area is described as "a gentle and relatively remote valley". Remote to whom? Not to the 27 families living along the West route, as opposed to the 10 houses on the East Route that could have been affected by the pylons. Yes, a gentle and relatively remote valley - the very reason why nearly every weekend motor cyclists [clubs and individuals] and occasionally Car Clubs use this route to experience the quiet beauty of this area. Often tourists on bicycles or in cars use this route for its scenic serenity and safety. NO MORE if the 400kV pylons take precedence over our sky line.

Recently, driving through this valley, I was shocked to realise the enormity of the towers and the impact they would have on our landscape. Overseas visitors and N Z tourists will no longer marvel at the beauty of our countryside. What memories are they going to take away with them? And what about the daily visual assault on the senses of those living in the valley, including those not directly affected? The desecration of our beautiful farming land is nothing short of criminal.

Preferring the West Route over the East Route to minimise the impact of the pylons doesn't make sense, and these obnoxious monstrosities should never be built anywhere in N Z.

Our Position

Our house is situated about 50m from the Ara-Pak 110KV lines. The cow and implement/work sheds are even closer. No matter where in the 500m wide corridor the pylons are put, we will be deeply affected.

If the line follows the 110KV Ara-Pak line, which goes over a long-standing belt of willows and native trees, there is a likelihood that they will have to be removed.

If the line goes as far to the west as possible on our neighbours land there will be a terrible visual impact for us and the passing motoring public.

Visual Affect

We look from our kitchen window to the south and see three 25 metre pylons and to the north two more, all on the skyline. Can you explain to us, how, if these were to be replaced with 75m pylons my view would not be aesthetically impaired? There's no way trees can be planted or the pylons put in hollows to disguise this blot on our beautiful landscape. We shudder to think of the opinion that will go home with our overseas visitors concerning the concept of our clean green countryside.

Effects of Health

The other three sets of lines are to the west of our house bringing a possible total capacity of 1060KV. With this concentration of power in a narrow corridor are we going to have another dioxin fiasco in 30 years time and who will be held responsible for compensation? By this time the 400KV line might possibly be in foreign ownership! And what of the possibility of sabotage or earthquake - all these lines could be wiped out in one fell swoop. The EMF will increase by 4 times. There are unknown health consequences in the future for our family and employees living near them.

BH & FR Aldridge
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Mr. Aldridge senior lived and worked near the 110KV lines for 50 years and died from Parkinson disease (EMF's are said to exacerbate neurological disorders).

A member of our household feels her health has deteriorated over the 30 years of residence near the 110KV lines, with constant chest and stomach complaints and frequent pneumonias in recent years. Wind born charged aeons travel up to 500 metres posing a possible health risk.

Farming Operations

The application of spray and fertilizer by helicopter and plane will become more difficult. The loaded planes coming off our local airstrip at the moment just rise above the 110KV towers. With higher towers, lighter loads and more trips, it all means more costs to the farmer (us). We have seen existing towers "light up" in an early morning storm. They create noise now - the 400KV lines will be worse. We live in a windy valley and towers do topple in storms.

The corridor may become an unproductive wasteland. Access for maintenance and building over farmland will be inconvenient and land will be out of production for a while.

Succession Planning

The implication of a 400KV line running through or near our property has put our estate planning in jeopardy. We and our son have been planning for several years a take over date for running the farm which was scheduled for this year, but now there is no way he wants to bring his partner and two young children to live so close to an electric and magnetic field associated with the 400KV lines, about which Transpower stated they have no view on whether they are safe or not.

Planning for the Future

Our long term retirement plans involving subdivision of some of our farmland no longer seems valid, as Transpower has already prejudiced the value of our land when they proposed this line on 28th October 2004. People do not wish to buy and live near 70m pylons and 400KV transmission lines.

Our Heritage

In the early 1900's our forbears bought this farm into production. We have struggled to maintain it, and now the 400KV line will make void for future generations all the hard work put into this venture. Taking into consideration the concentration of houses in the Te Hoe/ Waiterimu/ Taniwha area, it would be a crime if the 400KV transmission lines went through here.

It is the impact on the environment that is a concern as is shown in Minister Pete Hodgson's comments as follows.

My reasons for calling in the matters involved in the proposal are as follows:

- It has aroused widespread public concern and interest regarding its actual or likely effect on the environment
- It involves significant use of natural and physical resources
- It affects more than one region or district
- It involves technology, processes, or methods which are new to New Zealand and which may affect the environment
- It is likely to result in or contribute to significant or irreversible changes to the environment.

Dated this 8th day of September 2007

MINISTER Pete Hodgson
for Minister for the Environment

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