

**Steve Rice**

**From:** TPCallin [TPCallin@mfe.govt.nz]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 October 2007 8:19 a.m.  
**To:** rice-resources-ltd@clear.net.nz  
**Subject:** FW: Transpower Grid Upgrade Submission

RECEIVED ON  
- 4 OCT 2007  
0748

---

**From:** Douglas Allan[SMTP:DALLAN@ELLISGOULD.CO.NZ]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 04, 2007 8:12:57 AM  
**To:** TPCallin; submissions@transpower.co.nz  
**Subject:** Transpower Grid Upgrade Submission  
**Auto forwarded by a Rule**

Dear Sir / Madam,

We **attach** a submission by Hunua and Paparimu Valley Residents Association Incorporated with respect to the Transpower Grid Upgrade notices of requirement. Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours Faithfully,  
Douglas Allan

Douglas Allan  
Partner  
dallan@ellisgould.co.nz

ph: +64 9 307 2172  
fax: +64 9 358 5215

Level 31, The ANZ Centre, 23-29 Albert Street  
PO Box 1509, DX CP 22003  
Auckland, New Zealand

**ellisgould**  
LAWYERS

[www.ellisgould.co.nz](http://www.ellisgould.co.nz)

This e-mail contains information which is confidential and may be subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you must not peruse, use, disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail or attachments. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify us immediately by return e-mail, facsimile or telephone and delete this mail. Ellis Gould is not responsible for any changes made to this e-mail or to any documents after transmission from Ellis Gould.

4/10/2007

**SUBMISISON ON PUBLICLY NOTIFIED REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATIONS UNDER  
THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**

***Section 145 of the Resource Management Act 1991***

TO: The Minister for the Environment  
Freeport Grid Upgrade Submissions  
PO Box 4405  
Hamilton East  
**HAMILTON**

**HUNUA AND PAPANIMU VALLEY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED** ("the Submitter"), c/o Ellis Gould, solicitors at the address for service set out below, makes the following submission on the notices of requirement lodged by Transpower New Zealand Limited ("Transpower") to develop a new national grid electricity transmission line from Whakamaru to Otahuhu and Pakuranga ("the Proposal").

1. The acting Minister for the Environment has directed that the Proposal be called in pursuant to section 144 of the Resource Management Act ("the Act").
2. This submission relates to the Proposal in its entirety including the following notices of requirement:
  - (a) Manukau City Council:
    - (i) Pakuranga Substation (27619).
    - (ii) Otahuhu Substation (27619).
    - (iii) Brownhill Substation (27619).
    - (iv) Underground Cable – Pakuranga to Brownhill (27619).
    - (v) Underground Cable – Otahuhu to Brownhill (27619).
    - (vi) Overhead Line – Brownhill to Franklin District (27619).
  - (b) Franklin District Council – Overhead Line (LO7089).
  - (c) Waikato District – Overhead Line (DES0011/07).
  - (d) Matamata-Piako District – Overhead Line (RMR200621).

- (e) Waipa District – Overhead Line (DN/0006/07).
- (f) South Waikato District – Overhead Line (240/021).
- (g) Taupo District:
  - (i) Overhead Line (RM070209).
  - (ii) Whakamaru and Whakamaru North Substations (RM070209).

3. In summary the Submitter:

- (a) Acknowledges that there is a need to improve New Zealand's transmission infrastructure and, in particular, that upgrades to this section of the national grid are reasonably necessary for its efficient operation;
- (b) Considers that Transpower has sought designations for an unnecessarily and unjustifiably large upgrade in the capacity of the relevant section of the national grid;
- (c) Considers that Transpower has failed to give adequate consideration to alternative sites, routes or methods of undertaking the work and of implementing its reasonable objectives;
- (d) Considers that the Proposal in its current form gives rise to unacceptable and unnecessary adverse effects on the environment, in particular adverse visual and amenity impacts; and
- (e) Considers that, given the scale of the adverse effects that will be generated by the Proposal, it should be declined in its entirety unless it is amended so as to take account of the Submitter's concerns.

4. The reasons for the submission are as follows:

- (a) The matters identified in paragraph 3 above.
- (b) The Proposal, as notified and in the absence of the amendments sought pursuant to this submission:
  - (i) Will not promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources and will otherwise be contrary to the purpose and principles of the Act.

- (ii) Will not promote or enable the social, economic and cultural well being of those communities in the Auckland and Waikato regions that will be directly and adversely affected by the proposed works.
  - (iii) Provides for an increase in the capacity of the relevant part of the national grid that:
    - Is not necessary or desirable to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations.
    - Is unnecessary and unjustifiable in terms of current and anticipated future power demands;
    - Will result in the Proposal generating significant and unnecessary additional adverse effects on the environment.
  - (iv) Does not adequately avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the environment (section 5(2)(c) of the Act).
  - (v) Does not amount to or promote the efficient use and development of resources (section 7(b) of the Act).
  - (vi) Does not maintain and enhance amenity values or the quality of the environment (sections 7(c) and (f) of the Act).
  - (vii) Will generate significant adverse effects on the environment.
  - (viii) Is inconsistent and contrary to relevant regional and district policy statements and plans (section 171(a) of the Act).
  - (ix) Failed to give adequate consideration to alternative sites, routes, or methods of undertaking the work (section 171(b) of the Act).
  - (x) Is not reasonably necessary for achieving Transpower's objectives for which the designation is sought (section 171 (c) of the Act).
- (c) The Proposal ought to be declined pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Act

In particular, but without derogating from the generality of the above:

- (d) The scale of the proposed lattice towers (having regard to the various dimensions of the towers including a maximum height of 70m) is significantly greater than that of existing pylons and lines. That scale, in conjunction with the decision to implement a design with capacity for 400kV lines, will generate significantly greater adverse visual effects over a significantly larger area than would otherwise be the case.
- (e) The adverse visual, ecological and amenity related impacts associated with the overhead line sections of the Proposal are significant and unnecessary, particularly through the Hunua and Papparimu Valley settlements and surrounding areas where:
  - (i) There will be significant, unnecessary and unacceptable adverse impacts on those communities.
  - (ii) The location of the proposed new line in close proximity to the existing OTA-WKM A, B and C lines will create significant cumulative adverse effects which have not adequately been avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- (f) The Proposal incorporates easement areas alongside the proposed new towers and lines that are of inconsistent and unjustifiable width and are in any event of inadequate extent given the adverse effects on the environment that the Proposal may generate.
- (g) The details provided in the Proposal and associated assessment of effects are inadequate and do not allow affected and potentially affected parties to fully consider and appreciate the nature and scale of effects. In particular, but without limiting this ground of the submission in any way, the height, design and location of the pylons and the potential maximum width of the designation are insufficiently certain. The envelope of effects which have been assessed is too narrowly defined.
- (h) The adverse effects of the Proposal which can be ascertained from the documentation are capable of being, and ought to be, avoided, remedied or mitigated by employing a range of alternative options including but not limited to:

- (i) Under-grounding the line further south along the transmission route especially through sensitive areas;
  - (ii) Replacing the lattice towers (in whole or in part) with less intrusive monopole and / or compact design structures; and
  - (iii) Using a 220 kV line design capacity in place of a 400kV line design capacity.
- (i) A 400kV design will not be needed within the context of New Zealand's transmission infrastructure over the lifetime of the relevant planning instruments or the lifetime of the Proposal and will provide no benefit as an on-off, point-to-point transmission line. The unnecessary nature of the Proposal is emphasised by the extensive duration of the time period sought by Transpower in order to implement the works.
- (j) Transpower's investigation of alternative sites, routes, or methods of undertaking the work was insufficient and inadequate. By way of example and with reference to section 171(b) of the Act, Transpower did not undertake an appropriate and adequate consideration of alternatives with respect to:
- (i) The options for under-grounding sections of the transmission route lines through sensitive areas, particularly given the scale and nature of the adverse visual and amenity effects generated by the decision to retain above ground transmission;
  - (ii) The decision to implement a design with capacity to accommodate 400kV transmissions, particularly given:
    - The current and anticipated future demand for electricity consumption;
    - The adequacy of a supply based on 220kV lines; and
    - The relative effects on visual and general amenity generated by the respective forms of supply;
  - (iii) The design and form of construction of the tower structures, particularly given the technical feasibility of and advantages in terms of minimising adverse impacts on visual amenity of monopole

structures and / or compact design structures in comparison with the structures selected by Transpower; and

- (iv) Re-conducting the existing transmission infrastructure and / or reconfiguring the existing grid to gain efficiencies in the network and to reduce the need to improve the existing transmission infrastructure.
- (k) There are preferable alternative methods of undertaking the work and meeting Transpower's reasonable objectives that will generate significantly less adverse effects on the environment and that would more appropriately be approved pursuant to the Act.
- (l) There is insufficient information and detail contained within the notice of requirement documentation to satisfy Transpower's requests that:
  - (i) The requirement for outline plans under section 176A of the Act be waived;
  - (ii) The period of time within which the designation should be implemented be extended from the five year period generally anticipated in the Act.

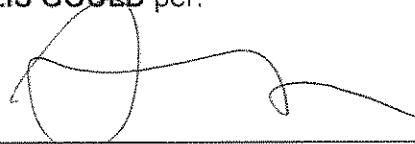
5. The submitter seeks the following relief:

- (a) That the Proposal be declined.
- (b) That, in the event the relief sought in paragraph 5(a) above is not granted, the Proposal be approved only if it is amended to or is made subject to conditions that require Transpower to:
  - (i) Adopt a maximum design capacity based upon 220kV lines rather than 400 kV lines;
  - (ii) Replace the proposed lattice towers with shorter and less visually intrusive monopole and / or compact design structures with a maximum capacity of 220kV lines; and
  - (iii) Underground a greater extent of the line than is currently proposed including in particular the line along that part of the route between its northern terminus and State Highway 2 to the south.

- (c) Such further or other relief as is appropriate or desirable in order to take account of and respond to the concerns expressed in this submission.
6. The submitter wishes to be heard in support of its submission. If other parties make a similar submission, the submitters would consider presenting a joint case with them at any hearing.

DATED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 2007

HUNUA AND PAPARIMU VALLEY  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED  
by its solicitors and duly authorised agents  
ELLIS GOULD per:



DA Allan / LCR Burkhardt

**ADDRESS FOR SERVICE:** The offices of Ellis Gould, Level 31, ANZ Centre, 23-29 Albert Street, Auckland (PO Box 1509, Auckland; DX: CP22003, Auckland); Telephone: 09-307-2172; Facsimile: 09-358-5215. Email: lburkhardt@ellisgould.co.nz