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Submission 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
P.O.Box 4405
Hamilton East.

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.

Submitter/s.

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The reasons for our submission are:

We agree that something has to be done about the demand/supply of electricity transmission / generation to better meet the needs of the New Zealand community. BUT

We object and oppose the assumptions that have been used by Transpower and the Electricity Commissioners to give a decision in approval of the 400kv hvac line. The haste to push through the 400kv option in our view is obnoxious. When the need dates prove we have the time to consider very carefully the ramifications of the proposal.

We note that Transpower and the Electricity commission agreed not to use the latest(2007) Statement of Opportunities in their Grid Investment Test.

We believe that the full environmental and economic costs to our childrens futures have not been given due consideration.

We believe that the cumulative effects of the existing Whakamaru to Otahuhu A,B and C lines in conjunction with the 400kv have not been sufficiently analysed.

The proposed NPS on Electricity Transmission is still under due process and this may have a significant bearing on the cumulative effects of our community we are therefore recommending that a decision not be made by the BOI until this has been adjudicated on and the full effects are known. The decision is due in December 07.

There is also the issue of a major quake along the Wairoa fault line which runs along the Hunua Ranges wiping out a great majority of the feed into Auckland and the upper north island if this proposal goes ahead.

We also believe that the Carbon footprint from the 400kv line could be reduced by using other alternatives, such as HVDC and undergrounding of 220kv cables.

We believe that Transpower has stated and the EC has also stated in their final decision that the intention is to convert the Grid Backbone to 400kv up and down the length of the country. The impact on the visual and amenity values of this would be acute for those living along the line/s.

We also believe that the minimum easement width of 65M is too narrow when looking at the perceived but not yet adequately proven or disproven health effects from EMF emissions and ionized particle emissions of a 400kv line.

We seek the following decision from the Board of Inquiry.

That the application for Notices of Requirement and resource consents should be denied.

The full impact on the environment, the accumulative effects of all the lines through Hunua and risk factors are not known at this time and therefore cannot be either Avoided, remedied or Mitigated

That this decision should not be made until the NPS on electricity transmission and the NEES is finalized as with the review on the Sage report from the UK with its recommendations as to the Health effects.

The need date has been proven to be not as urgent as implied. We have the time to carefully consider all contingencies and possibilities.

That HVDC should be the transmission of choice for the Grid backbone to cover environmental and Health issues.. Then you would have smaller capacity AC lines converging on central hubs with AC/DC convertors for transportation along the backbone.

We wish to be heard in support of our submission.

LR & D Levesque

Dated 4th October 2007.