

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

Section 145 of the Resource Management Act 1991

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- 4 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](mailto:tpcallin@mfe.govt.nz)  
Fax: 04 439 7700

And Transpower  
Freepost 182915  
PO Box 1021  
WELLINGTON  
Email: [submissions@transpower.co.nz](mailto:submissions@transpower.co.nz)  
Fax: 04 819 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**

My Full Name: Douglas Arthur PARKER

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The reasons for my submission are:

I am completely opposed to Transpower's intention to build this oversized line, as the most recent and therefore accurate demand growth projections of the Electricity Commission (2007 SoO) do not justify its construction. The scale and capacity of this proposed 400kV capable line is completely out of alignment with the expected requirements for transmission capacity into Auckland to meet demand growth in the next 40 years – as evidenced by Transpower's request in the NoR to have a 30 year extension to the designations remaining active in local District Plans. The potential new generation capacity likely to be constructed in the Auckland region in the next 40 years has been grossly underestimated in an attempt to justify this line as one of national significance and urgency.

Better equal benefit alternatives to this proposed line are available that have a vastly reduced environmental impact, such as more generation in the Auckland region, duplexing and re-conductoring of the Whakamaru A, B and C lines, use of HVDC transmission technology which will be less obtrusive and easier to underground, more extensive use of undergrounding of HVAC lines, and use of new conventional small scale 220kV transmission lines. Compact Transmission line designs and the use of monopoles also needs to be fully investigated before any approval is granted.

There has been insufficient visual effects analysis provided to support Transpower's application, in particular with respect to the Hunua Ranges regional park – an area of Outstanding Natural Landscape (ONL). Given the technical alternatives with which I am very familiar, it is unthinkable that latticework towers of up to 70 m could be considered. This is a legacy decision that will seriously impact New Zealand for generations to come, and it is not required.

I oppose this line being built on as little as a 65 metre wide easement, when a much wider easement for such a large construction, free of houses and workplaces, should be required as a precautionary principle to reduce future health risks and environmental impacts. In any event, the easement width must be at LEAST equal to the height of the towers on either side, as this is recognised as a minimum "corridor of affection". I also believe there has been insufficient analysis of the cumulative effect of adding this line to the narrow Hunua Valley, which already hosts three large 220 kV transmission lines.

I oppose these applications because Transpower has not included the true cost of environmental impacts in their justifications, and are providing misleading and inaccurate costings of the real alternative options to this line that should be considered. I specifically oppose the application by Transpower to be exempted from the need to provide Outline Plans as required under section 176A of the RMA, and note that this is a very large construction that will severely impact on visual and amenity values in the Hunua Valley. This proposal fails utterly to AVOID, REMEDY or MITIGATE the environmental effects and should be rejected in favour of readily available alternatives.

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

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.

The Board should require Transpower to properly evaluate further undergrounding out to State Highway 2; to develop plans for compact transmission line design and/or the use of monopoles, and in no case allow a line design at more than 220 kV operation.

I wish to be heard in support of my submission at the public hearing. I would like the location of the portion of the hearing which will receive my evidence to be held in a local venue near to where I live. If other parties make a similar submission, I am willing to consider presenting a joint case with them.



I make my submission concerning all notices of requirements and applications for resource consents relating Transpower's applications that will be heard by this Board of Inquiry. The references are NORs 27619, L07089, DES0011/07, RMR200621, DN/0006/07, 240/021, RM070209, and resource consents 34102, 34370, 34372, 34373, 34711, 34712, 116902, 116903, 116904, 116905, and any other NORs or resource consent applications that may subsequently be filed or altered. I oppose all of these NORs and applications for resource consent.



I have served a copy of my submission on the applicant by copy to Transpower as above.



Names(s): Douglas Arthur PARKER

Date: 4 October 2007

(Signature is not required for electronic (email) submissions.  
If this is a joint submission by two or more individuals, each individual's name is required.)

