

**IN THE MATTER**

of a Board of Inquiry appointed under  
S146 of the Resource Management Act 1991 to consider an  
application by Mighty River Power Limited for resource consents  
to construct and operate a wind farm at Turitea

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**PROOF OF EVIDENCE OF JOSEPH EDWARD POFF**  
**Dated 22 May 2009**

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**JOSEPH EDWARD POFF** will say:

1. That is my full name. I live in the northern Turitea area. I am an engineer and a farmer.
2. I run a sheep and beef dry stock 193 ha farm as well as a heating, ventilating, air conditioning, refrigeration, electronic controls and electrical contracting company called Temperature Control Solutions (TCS) Ltd. I occasionally work off shore as a specialised commissioning and troubleshooting engineer for large projects. TCS carries out design, installation, repairs and maintenance of all kinds of systems in NZ, also provides consultancy services.
3. I hold a New Zealand Certificate in Engineering specialised in heating ventilating and air conditioning, am Trade and Advanced Trade Certificate qualified in refrigeration and have qualified as a Trade Certified Electrician. I hold a current Electrician's Practicing License. I have been a member of the New Zealand Institute of Refrigeration, Heating and Air Conditioning Engineers since 1984, and served as the Manawatu Branch Chairman for several years.
4. In 1992 I moved to Germany. After 5 years working in Germany and getting married, my wife and I returned to NZ to raise our family in 1997. My income dropped dramatically but we believed that the lifestyle for a young family was still better in NZ. I eventually purchased (the balance of) my property in 2000 after seeking to buy it for many years. I was not keen on a large mortgage with a young and growing family, so I offered a 50% stake in this property to a farm neighbour. He was initially keen but, after discussing this with his wife, he declined the offer. I had always wanted to own the ridge lines so that wind turbines could be installed there and made no secret of this ambition. The upper boundary of my property was reconfigured to meet this purpose. I took out a large mortgage and purchased the upper 110 ha block alone.
5. I have been involved with this land for over 29 years. As a teenager, I travelled out from my home in town by bicycle to work as a farm hand / shearer / fencer for Robin Whiteman who then owned most of the land on the upper Pahiatua Track. I also held a possum trapping block inside the Turitea Reserve in the mid 70s.

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6. I wanted to be a farmer when I left school but after six months full time farm work I began a career in the refrigeration industry. I have vivid memories of trying to perform my farm duties in winds so strong that I could barely stand let alone work. I happily took up the new lifestyle, challenges and opportunities offered in the refrigeration industry, but always hoped to be a farmer one day.
7. My farm was purchased in two stages, the first block being acquired in 1990 the second in 2000. I began running the property as a farm in 2006 and enjoy working on the land. We have been able to improve the farm dramatically with new fences, sheds, yards, and have initiated a proactive gorse control / eradication programme using manpower instead of spraying. We engage several groups of local agricultural contractors. I enjoy seeing the farm improving and the stock in good condition. We do not bury rubbish. Even old fences are recycled. We see ourselves as caretakers of the land, and wish to leave it in better condition than when we found it.
8. Wind farming has always been part of the plan for this farm. In recent years we have seen Te Apiti and T3 completed, and one only needs to take a short drive to observe the fantastic improvements wind farms bring to those farming the land. Formed roads on the back of this property will be a huge help in managing farming activities. The stock on Te Rere Hau have been observed gathered behind the turbines as a means of shelter from the wind or shade from the sun. The diversification of farming income with the addition of wind farming revenue unrelated to grass growth and stock prices makes sound business sense.
9. The additional revenue will be reinvested in the farm, and into the local economy. We have plans to fence-off the creeks, install a water reticulation system, improve tracks, build many more kilometers of new fencing and manage the resources we have in the most sustainable manner possible. We are here for the long haul, and I hope the next generation will be proud of what we can achieve in our relatively short term as guardians of the land.
10. I live over the road from the Te Rere Hau Wind Farm (1240m from the nearest turbine) and I can see more than a dozen Windflow 500 turbines from my property. Apparently, noise has been an issue for the Windflow 500 turbines. I do occasionally hear them, but I

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also hear vehicles passing on the road, wind in the trees and other sounds of life in the country. It is generally accepted that these turbines are significantly noisier than the larger turbines. The turbines are producing electricity from an infinitely renewable energy source for the common good of all, and I fully endorse the use of renewable energy, and for the sake of the next generation, I am happy to see them there.

Appendix 10: Photo of Te Rere Hau Windflow 500s from our home.

11. I am pleased that MRP have chosen to install the larger, quieter, slower turning and symmetrical 3 bladed turbines which most people find are pleasing to the eye.
12. In giving my evidence, I would like to highlight the following points:
  - (a) Sustainability is the key to the future we are preparing for our children. In an ecological context, sustainability can be defined as the ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes, functions, biodiversity and productivity into the future. For humans to live sustainably, the earth's resources must be used at a rate at which they can be replenished;
  - (b) Renewable energy is not available everywhere. We have a well documented, world class resource. It should be utilized for the sustainable generation of electricity for the common good of all;
  - (c) Mighty River Power has a proven track record with regard to the communities in which it operates. It takes seriously the objectives of sustainable development. It has the resources to construct the Turitea wind farm in an environmentally responsible and professional manner;
  - (d) Wind farming is compatible with farming activities. Existing wind farms have all lead to real improvements for the farms upon which they are installed;
  - (e) Wind farming is a discretionary activity under the District Plan. This kind of activity must surely be encouraged, on both economic and environmental grounds;

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- (f) I will be proud to be a small part in this project ,for environmental reasons and also because this project will benefit those who live in the region;
- (g) I am very concerned about the changed attitude of the Palmerston North City Council since the last local body elections;
- (h) The fact that all of the neighbours of the Reserve are supportive of this project should carry significant weight. This scenario is unlikely to be repeated at a future date. A lot of the private land around the Reserve, such as ours, is zoned for rural residential. It is therefore reasonable to expect that further subdivision will occur in the future, and this will inevitably create a further hindrance to a wind farm development;
- (i) From my own experience, as an electrician, I can see that electricity demand is increasing and will continue to increase in years to come;
- (j) Heat pumps, powered by electricity, are rapidly becoming the preferred option when it comes to home heating, and sales have increased consistently year on year. When I started work in the refrigeration industry 25 years ago, very few heat pumps were installed. Many people did not actually know what they were. Only better off people would put one into a home. Now they are common and most people have heard of heat pumps. Looking to the future, it is obvious that electricity, as a form of transportable energy, will be with us for the next 25 years at the very least. As we move to electric cars and the like, even more demand will be placed on our national generating assets. Electricity generation using renewable energy is clearly important in our search for a truly sustainable future;
- (k) Some of the many deeply concerning publications orchestrated by lobbyists need to be shared with the Board. The lobbyists have unsuccessfully sort to engage the greater public through an emotive misinformation campaign. They run anonymous web sites where those of us who have spoken out publicly in support of this project are criticized, often personally:

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- (I) This "Massey Research" was presented as an example of "good information" at a PNCC sponsored public meeting designed to help the public make a submission to the Board. It is in itself a scandal and has brought the University into disrepute.

Massey University Dr Phipps Prelim Survey Results.

Appendix 01

- (II) This Review confirms what common sense would suggest regarding the validity of the so called "Research" above.

Review of the above by JR Mc Comish

Appendix 02

- (III) Anonymous Misinformation flyer 2005; the first of many.

Appendix 03

- (IV) Full Page Misinformation Ad in The Manawatu Standard 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009

Appendix 04

- (l) I have been personally affected by this misinformation;
- (m) Emotive arguments have never resolved a technical issue, and I am afraid the lobbyists are not looking objectively at the proposed project;
- (n) Diminished property values have often been presented as an emotive rallying call, but in fact, based on statistical evidence from Ashurst where the nearest turbine is approximately 1500m from the main street, property values increased at rates above the national norm following the completion of the Te Apiti Wind Farm;
- (o) Some objectors claim their view will be ruined by turbines. Our view has been degraded by the arrival of their houses. These houses on new life style blocks have crept out from town towards us over the years. This is not something we would be inclined to complain about. After all it is their land and they are entitled to build what they like. We all have a different idea of what looks good and beauty is in the eye of the beholder. However, when these new arrivals to the area then

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turn around and try to stop neighbouring land owners developing their land, then I say that is not something that should sway a decision;

- (p) Submitters 644 and 317 include this photograph in their submissions. Built to take advantage of the superb views and solar heating potential offered by an elevated site. The view is towards the city. The lights look great at night and panoramic views during the day are magnificent.

Appendix 5

- (q) Submitters 644 and 317 also make comment on the impact this project will have on their view. This is a photo of the back of their house. It is plainly evident that views in this direction are not held in high regard. It is hardly believable that they would want this view. This is our view over their property;

Appendix 6

- (r) Submitters 674 and 682 include this photo), in their submission and have built the same way, with living areas situated for great views over the city.

Appendix 7

- (s) Submitters 674 and 682 also make comment on the destruction of their view. This is a photo of the back of their house. They have very small windows looking toward the proposed wind farm. Clearly this is the back of their house. This is our view over their property;

Appendix 8

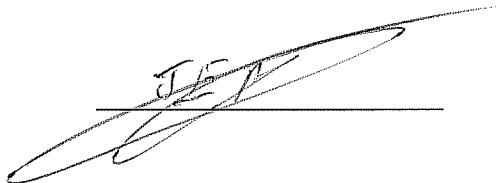
- (t) This is typical of recent lifestyle block developments. Note that the out buildings are facing the farm land behind the houses while the living spaces are designed to take advantage of the views over the Manawatu and the City. I re-iterate that this does not bother me. What bothers me is when new arrivals permanently disfigure the landscape and then want no further change to occur around them;

Appendix 9

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- (u) Interestingly, the lobbyists' submissions are generally supportive of renewable energy and wind farming, but just not near them. This is commonly known as NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) syndrome;
  
- (v) I know that the Board will give the lobbyists' points of view due consideration, but I would ask that they be balanced against the numerous benefits this project presents to the people of Palmerston North, Manawatu and New Zealand. When considering whether or not to delete a turbine I hope the Board will take into account that each Turbine would provide electricity to over 1000 homes in the most sustainable way that current engineering technology allows, using a world-rated renewable energy source for the common good of all but most importantly the next generation. It needs to be remembered, too, that all we want to do is rent a small piece of land to harvest an infinitely renewable source of energy and buy ourselves precious time to develop a better future. When that way has been identified, then these turbines could be removed and the land would be left exactly as it had been with no lasting damage or degradation.

**DATED** at Palmerston North this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. E. P.', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.