

SUBMISSION ON MIGHTY RIVER POWER LTD APPLICATIONS FOR RESOURCE CONSENT

Section 145 of the Resource Management Act 1991

To: Freepost Call In Ministry for the Environment PO Box 10362 The Terrace Wellington 6143	RECEIVED OR 20 FEB 2009	Email: turiteacallin@mfe.govt.nz Fax: 04 439 7705 [Note: If you are emailing or faxing your submission, please mark in the subject line: 'Turitea Call In']
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This submission relates to the applications for resource consent lodged by Mighty River Power Ltd for the Turitea Wind Farm proposal as identified on the next page.

CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSIONS: 5.00 PM MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2009

Title: DR ~~Mr~~ ~~Mrs~~ ~~Miss~~ ~~Ms~~ (Please circle the appropriate title(s) or print clearly below)

My/Our Full Name(s): MICHAEL JOHN SHEPHERD

Postal Address: 114, OXFORD ST, ASHBURST, MANAWATU 4810

Work Ph: _____ Home Ph: 06-3268302 Cell: _____

Work Fax: _____ Home Fax: _____ Email: mikeshepherd@inspire.net.nz

Please tick the relevant boxes on the next page to identify whether you are making a submission on all applications for resource consent or just some of them (please identify).

Please also indicate on the back of this form (✓) whether you support, oppose, or are neutral in relation to the applications. If you are making a submission only on parts of an application for resource consent, please note this when specifying the reasons for your submission.

The reasons for my/our submission are: _____ *If you are attaching further information tick for yes*

① Destruction of landscape values

② Potential adverse effect on tourism

Please use more pages if you need to.

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

Refusal of consent

Please use more pages if you need to.

Use a clear tick in the appropriate box below (✓)

I/we wish to be heard in respect of my/our submission (to speak at the public hearing).

I/we DO NOT wish to be heard and hereby make my/our submission in writing only.

Signature(s): *MJS* Date: 19.2.09

(Signature of submitter, or person authorised to sign on their behalf is required. Note signature is not required for electronic (email) submissions. If this is a joint submission by two or more individuals, each individual's signature is required.)

Use the tick boxes below to indicate the called-in applications for resource consent that your submission concerns.
Use a clear tick in the appropriate box or boxes (✓).

I/we make my/our submission concerning all applications for resource consent below

OR

My/our submission only concerns the applications for resource consent that I/we have ticked below:

	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council – Land-use Consents			
104553: for vegetation clearance and land disturbance in rare or threatened habitats, near streams and on highly erodible land throughout the general wind farm site.			
104554: for the construction of a double culvert in an un-named tributary of the Kahuterawa Stream as shown on the included map.			
Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council – Discharge Permits			
104555: for the discharge of dust to air from the concrete batching plants to be located as generally shown on the included map.			
104556: for the discharge of dust to air from the mobile crushing plant throughout the general wind farm site.			
104557: for the discharge of wastewater from two operations and maintenance facilities to land to be located as generally shown on the included map.			
104558: for the discharge of stormwater from substations to land to be located as generally shown on the included map.			
104559: for the discharge of cleanfill to land in the form of spoil disposal sites throughout the general wind farm site.			
104560: for the discharge of stormwater from roads, turbine platforms and other areas to land.			
Palmerston North City Council – Land-use Consents			
RC0068: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to establish and operate a wind farm in the areas within the Palmerston North city jurisdiction as generally shown on the included map to undertake earthworks associated with tracking and roading, turbine construction and associated buildings in the areas within the Palmerston North city jurisdiction as generally shown on the included map for the western side of Pahiatua Aokautere Road not meeting access requirements at the location shown on the included map for the storage of diesel (10,000 L) in bunded areas outside the Turitea water supply catchment, generally located at the two substation laydown areas shown on the included map, that exceeds the 0.2 effects ratio maximum in the rural zone for the construction of a 220 kV electricity transmission line and substations as shown on the included map. 		✓	
Tararua District Council – Land-use Consents			
1448: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for a wind farm (which is not listed as a permitted or controlled activity) in the areas within the Tararua District as generally shown on the included map for land disturbance of more than 200 m² of soil and cleanfill material associated with tracking and roading, turbine construction, spoil disposal and other associated works in the areas within the Tararua District as generally shown on the included map for upgrades to South Range Road and the construction of new site access at the location shown on the included map for turbine and wind monitoring mast structures not meeting height requirements within the Tararua District for the modification of a Significant Natural Feature in Schedule 3.3 (ie, Tararua Ranges Ridgeline) for not meeting noise requirements for clearance of indigenous vegetation in the areas within the Tararua District as generally shown on the included map. 		✓	

NOTE: A copy of this submission form MUST also be sent to Mighty River Power Ltd at:

Freeport – MRP
Mighty River Power Ltd
PO Box 445
Hamilton 3240
Attention: Stephanie Froggatt

Or email turitea@mightyriver.co.nz or fax (07) 857 0192

I/we have sent a copy of my/our submission to Mighty River Power Ltd as per Section 96(4) of the RMA.



Ministry for the
Environment
Māhuta Mo te Taiao

New Zealand Government

Submission on Mighty River Power's application for a resource consent for the Turitea Wind Farm

By: Dr Michael J. Shepherd

I recently retired after over 30 years as a geomorphology (landform science) lecturer and senior lecturer at Massey University, where I was based for over 30 years. I continue my affiliation with that institution as an honorary research associate. I feel well qualified to comment on the spread of wind farms across the New Zealand landscape. I have long been concerned by the lack of national guidelines for wind farm development and the focus of agencies such as the Department of Conservation upon the preservation of biological aspects of the landscape, rather than upon the landscape as a whole, including its landforms, which have also evolved over long periods of time to become distinct features. The New Zealand landscape is in the process of becoming rapidly and extensively modified by wind farm developments, and I suspect that the adverse implications for the country as a whole will not be recognised until it is too late.

I strongly oppose the construction of the Turitea Wind Farm because it will dominate the skyline and landscape, and affect the vista over major distances on both sides of the range, especially when the cumulative effect of wind farms which have been, or are likely to be, constructed both to the north and south. More and more residents in the Manawatu area, who initially favoured wind farms, are now commenting that the landscape has already been sufficiently modified in our region. I and many others do not wish to see our skyline become a continuous picket-line of turbines extending over perhaps 50 kilometres along the range crest. The Turitea Wind Farm would be the closest of all wind farms to Palmerston North and would be obtrusively visible from all parts of that city. I consider that the local ranges have intrinsic natural values (I could write much about this) that would be lost following wind farm construction.

From the economic viewpoint I believe that insufficient value is placed upon New Zealand's attributes as a clean, green and unspoilt country. These values are responsible, together with the development of low-cost air travel, for the growth of tourism, which now rivals the position of the dairy industry as New Zealand's chief overseas income earner. I have seen the results of tourist surveys that indicate that the beauty and unspoilt character of the New Zealand landscape is the prime attraction. If this perception changes, tourist numbers may decline. Wind farm proposals are proliferating at an alarming rate and the lack of any national policy on wind farms puts additional responsibility on decision makers to consider the national interest with respect to preservation the landscape that makes New Zealand such a special place. As one who has travelled very widely, I perceive that most New Zealanders take their landscape for granted and will not wake up to its downgrading until it is too late.

Lastly, mining companies are required to pay a bond to cover the decommissioning of mine facilities at the termination of mining. I have seen no such requirement with respect to the dismantling of wind turbines at the end of their lifespan. Is this evidence of a double standard or a blind belief that wind farm companies will act more responsibly than other companies?