

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
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']

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: Mr

My Full Name: Robert Neil Ward

Postal Address: 15 Hampden ST. Palmerston North

Work Ph: 06 3504252 Home Ph: 06 3559165 Cell:

Work Fax: Home Fax: Email: N.ward@massey.ac.nz

The reasons for my submission are: Documents attached

I oppose the construction of a wind farm in the proposed location for the reasons outlined.

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):

To decline the approval of this wind farm until proper guidelines are in place nationally to take account of aesthetic values, recreation reserve values, wilderness values and general codes of practice for location of windfarms.

Please use more pages if you need to.

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

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

Signature(s): R.N.Ward Date: 20/2/09

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

YES

	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 m³ 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:

Freepost – 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 have sent a copy of my submission to Mighty River Power as per section 96(4)

Yes

Submission on the resource consent for Mighty River Power Ltd
for the Turitea Wind Farm.

R.N.Ward

20/2/09

I oppose the present proposal for the following reasons. I am not opposed in principle to Wind Farms but have concerns about the location of this proposal.

Summary

The proposed location for this wind farm cuts right through two important reserve areas of high recreational and conservation value, in addition to being close to and contiguous with the adjoining Tararua forest park. The real bonus of these areas is the close proximity to the city and their accessibility. The P.N. City Council has invested heavily in developing the recreational opportunities here. Any "industrial" structures and activities would have a massive negative impact for the following reasons:

1. Aesthetic values.

The value of the landscape and skyline close to the city is very important. To have very large wind turbines very close is not appropriate. The region has already made a significant sacrifice to the landscape values through the existing wind farms on the northern Tararuas.

There comes a point where any more is unreasonable saturation and an unreasonable burden on the local population. It is not proposed that citizens of Palmerston North receive discount on power costs in compensation even! So there are no compensatory processes offered even if it was acceptable.

2. Recreational values

The P.N. City Council and Manawatu Regional Council have invested considerably in the recreational opportunities in the region. Of significance is the Turitea reserve and Harding's Park integrated with the Mountain bike track in the forest. These areas are priceless as recreation retreats and wilderness experiences so close to the city. The opportunity to observe wildlife in a near natural and quiet place is precious. There are few other such accessible areas in all of NZ, and especially few close to Palmerston North City.

Turning this area into an industrial wind farm complex will destroy these values. One only needs to walk on the Manawatu Gorge track to experience how the considerable noise and visible impact detracts from the wilderness and recreational experience.

3. Reserve status

Any reserve by definition preserves or attempts to preserve or restore natural and wild values and ecosystems. Any roading and construction through bush and close to the reserves on private farms in the area will unavoidably damage the landscape and have a negative effect on the ecological balance of the area. There will be visual scarring, silting and run-off problems and corridors opened up allowing predatory animals and plant pests into the deep bush. Open corridors also allow strong winds to damage fragile bush areas. The damage will be substantial and irreversible changing forever the nature and purpose of the reserve.

We have so little reserve lands that offer wild experiences so to damage what we have left is unacceptable.

4. Water supply

The Turitea water reserve is the major water supply for the city. The potential risk to the supply through soil damage, silting and pollution is considerable and not worth the risk. The roading and construction damage would be unavoidable. The damage from an oil spill would be a disaster for our water supply. Many turbines overseas have collapsed and spilled oil long after construction so the risk will never go away. I don't believe there are any robust procedures to "mitigate" the damage and avoid risks. It is simply not worth the risk.

5. Noise and visual disturbance

Noise, or lack of it, is an important aspect of isolation and wilderness. Large turbines right in the middle of the bush reserves will be an unacceptable destruction of the wilderness values. In addition many residents have invested in the rural locations attracted by the peace and quiet of a country life free of industrial and man-made noise and visual structures. An industrial wind farm right in the middle of their suburb would lead to loss of all the values they hold dear and the reason for them investing and moving to live in the area.