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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

OR Email: turiteacallin@mfe.govt.nz

04 439 7705

[Note: If you are emailing or faxing your submission, please mark in the subject line: 'Turitea Call In']

RECEIVED
23 FEB 2009

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 Mrs Miss Ms (Please circle the appropriate title(s) or print clearly below)

My/Our Full Name(s): (MONICA) PO KING STICHBURY

Postal Address: 179 FITZHERBERT AVE., PALMERSTON NORTH

Work Ph: Home Ph: Cell:

Work Fax: Home Fax: Email:

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

See attachments

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):

See attachments

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): P. K. STICHBURY

Date: 12/02/2009

(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.)



Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

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

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



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Environment
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New Zealand Government

Reasons for my submission are:

- 1 / Landscape concerns** - the Motorimu decision established that massive turbines are not to tower over and dominate dwellings. Motorimu turbines are 81 metres high, Turitea 125m high.
- 2 / Environmental concerns** - we have an "eco" park. This wind farm contradicts the very essence of conservation.
- 3 / Water supply concerns** - potential fire and erosion along with human activity in a "protected" water catchment is unacceptable.
- 4 / Noise concerns** - the Motorimu decision set minimum standards which MRP was very anxious to overturn. The noise standard set for Motorimu is the bare minimum that should be applied. NZS6808:1998 is totally inadequate, is under review and is the artifice of the wind industry.
- 5 / Amenity concerns** - who will enjoy their property in a worsening economic slump as it is further devalued by the flailing turbines of this wind farm ?
- 6 / Impact on future city development** - the city is on a flood plain. The Tararua foothills are the only safe alternative from a New Orleans type disaster. An article printed in the Manawatu Standard even made a comparison between the certainty of a flooding disaster in the city and New Orleans and opined that the major difference was that here the water would drain away more quickly.
- 7 / Global warming used as an excuse for this development** - even the left wing worldwide , once the principle proponents of AGW, are joining the right wing at scoffing at AGW, as they see it as a distraction from their larger agenda , as the world continues to cool for the eighth year in succession after a mild, natural, cyclical warming.
- 8 / Wind farms are generally uneconomic and this one, underpinned by Kyoto subsidies and the need for thermal backup, has a huge footprint** - there is no guarantee that Kyoto and its proposed successor will last the distance – then what ?? The creation of 250 construction jobs at huge cost to the city at large is simply ridiculous. Future employment opportunities will be virtually zero as MRP claims only 10 to 15 employees will be needed to run the wind farm once it is operational.
- 9 / Geographical spread** – the Manawatu has contributed more than its fair share to wind energy and Palmerston North has been seen as a soft touch with a transient student population unlikely to rock the boat.
- 10 / Failure by PNCC, Horizons, Mighty River Power, DOC to properly engage the community on this proposal leading to a failure of responsibility to citizens** – I happen to believe in a properly functioning democratic system.

I request that before a robust decision can be made that the Board of Enquiry commission and consider impartial reports from international experts on the following. (NB I understand the Board of Enquiry has the power to take this action)

- 1/ Landscape issues.
- 2/ Ecological issues.

3/ Town / city planning issues.

4/ Natural hazards and their impact on Palmerston North and the wind farm site, ie earthquakes, flooding, erosion, storms.

5/ The security of the city's water supply.

6/ Traffic issues in the vicinity during construction of the proposed wind farm.

7/ Impacts of the wind farm on amenity and property values.

8/ Noise from turbines, transmission lines, substations, construction, traffic, and the concrete batching plant.

9/ Energy, ie will this development contribute to a reliable supply, taking into consideration the proliferation of planned wind farms and those in the planning stage, but unknown to the public? – specifically Mighty River Power has several wind farms in the planning stages *which they admit the public do not yet know about.*

10/ The economic viability of the project, both now and into the future, in particular considering the wind farm's components come from the Northern Hemisphere at a time when it is known that world oil production has either peaked (May 2005) or will very soon with ruinous oil price rises soon to be upon us, despite current poor economic conditions.(Note wind may turn turbines but oil and oil products are used in every stage of their installation, maintenance and eventual replacement).

11/ A visual expert's assessment of the impact of turbine flicker.

12/ The Sociological impact on residents and the sustainability of communities.

13/ The impact and safety implications of this wind farm, in conjunction with the other built and consented wind farms, on aviation both civil and military.

In addition I would like this condition imposed on the developers and landowners to make them accountable to the community.

I ask that in the event of turbines being erected that MRP and the landowners, be they PNCC and / or private landowners in the scheme be required to pay full compensation to any affected PN resident for material loss through

1/fire,

2/property devaluation resulting through impairment caused by noise, flicker and visual intrusion,

3/loss of water supply or any deterioration in the quality thereof.

Obviously my first choice is no wind farm at all, however, I do have an absolute bottom line and that is

a/ no turbines on private land,

b/ none on Browns flat or Puke Rangī

c/ none in areas which compromise the viability of bird populations, the highly endangered and protected Karearea (native falcon) in particular.

d/ a minimum two kilometre set back from all dwellings, including those on private land currently earmarked for turbines.

e/ no substations to be placed anywhere in the reserve or within 1.5 km of any neighbouring property.

f/ no turbines in areas which compromise existing outdoor experiences.

g/ reduce the lease term from 60 years to 20, which is the supposed "life" of a turbine, on the grounds that wind farms as they are at the moment are not indefinitely sustainable and that new technologies which are far less intrusive and damaging to the environment are under development.

h/ give MRP the standard 3 years to install whatever turbines they may be allowed, on the grounds that the 10 years they are asking for is a clear indication that the economics of the scheme, as of right now, do not indicate a viable project. It is manifestly unfair to have the sword of Damocles hanging over the city for 10 years.

P. K. STEPHENSON

12/2/2009

To The Board of Enquiry

Turitea Wind Farm

My name is Monica Stichbury. I have lived in Palmerston North for almost 23 years. I am Chinese and was born and raised in Hong Kong. My earliest childhood memories are of living with my family in squatter housing on hill sides which today are covered in high rise buildings. My task as a child was to make several trips per day to a public water supply to fetch buckets of water which I then carried up more than 100 steps to the tin shed where we lived. Right at the start of my life it was impressed upon me just how important it is to have access to water, which is such a precious resource. Later our "home" was destroyed in a huge fire which swept the hillside. Lack of access to water meant the fire could not be controlled. We lost everything. When the change of purpose to the Turitea reserve was initiated I was simply horrified to see that PNCC placed the security of our water supply and the safety of ratepayers at the mercy of developers. I could hardly watch images of the Australian bush fire disaster on television these past few days. It brought back awful memories. It is simply astonishing that anyone would place the bush and pine forests behind the city at risk of an Australian style fire.

This news item from Radio New Zealand on 16 / 2 / 09 is a timely reminder of the risk that is being taken.

Melbourne water catchments badly damaged

Updated at 1:26pm on 16 February 2009

Melbourne's water supplies may be affected for decades as a result of the bushfires across Victoria.

Native forests in the Yarra Ranges are burned to the water's edge, causing serious problems with siltation and ash contamination.

Parks Victoria ranger Ian Roche says the catchments, which supply 70% of Melbourne's water, are badly damaged.

Two catchments have each lost about half their vegetation.

Mr Roche says the effects will last for decades as the regenerating forests absorb the rain and reduce run-offs to the reservoirs by up to half.

Once again the Tararuas have become extremely dry. The risk to life and property is unacceptable. I expect the board of enquiry to take this issue very seriously and to rule accordingly and by that I mean to deny turbines from being erected anywhere near vegetation. In fact the only way to mitigate against a fire would be to remove all vegetation and are you prepared to do that? Turbines belong in open country, well away from combustible plant matter and houses and certainly not within a water supply or city boundary.

Until recently my husband and I owned land in Nga Here Park where, like many of our neighbours, we planned to live a self sufficient lifestyle and enjoy the beautiful bush, scenic views and nature in general. I hope you will understand that coming from the background that I do, these things are very precious. We found out about the wind farm quite by accident when we decided we would sell our section at Nga Here Park and buy a 20 acre block opposite the Kahuterawa Reserve in the beautiful Kahuterawa valley. Even the valuer who prepared a report for us on both properties asked the question "Is there a wind farm proposed around here" His research said "no" and if we were not to buy the land he was interested in buying it himself. That block is totally dominated by mind bogglingly large turbines. No one could possibly live there if the wind farm proceeds. Those turbines are in the headwaters of the city's water supply. I find this deeply offensive from both a spiritual perspective and from a purely practical perspective as turbines and substations catch fire and there is no possible mitigation or insurance policy which can compensate for a disaster, despite whatever soothing words Mighty River Power might say. This is just gambling with our environment, our water supply, our precious bird life, people's lives and their rights to enjoy their property undisturbed. My hopes of living very close to the city and living in an unspoilt semi-rural environment have now been dashed.

When I realised the impact this development was going to have on us, our neighbours and the city I naively thought that we should go straight to the Mayor Heather Tanguay. I arranged for a Monday afternoon meeting but only a couple of hours prior we got a call from the Mayor's office to say the meeting

was cancelled because the Mayor had to go to a funeral. Personally, now, I don't believe this, as the only people who die and are buried on the same day are muslims. As it turned out the real funeral was Ms Tanguay's future electoral chances. Our neighbours, the Koots, were disappointed as was my husband who had arranged for leave without pay from work to come too. I rescheduled the meeting for the Thursday of the same week and went with Mr and Mrs Koot. Ms Tanguay pretended not to know where the wind farm was in the reserve, even when I showed her the plan in the document which had been sent to every household in the city, a document carrying her signature and with an introduction written by her. She then agreed to meet with Nga Here Park residents **after** submissions closed on the Turitea change of purpose. It shouldn't surprise you that that meeting never took place and considering how deeply Ms Tanguay was involved in the wind farm itself, would have been a complete waste of time anyway.

Even today the general public simply do not understand the ramifications of the wind farm. The lack of debate and information has been deliberate. Mighty River Power has huge resources and by stringing out the process has tried to wear down what opposition there has been and then run like spoilt children to the minister to get their way. When I see city officials working for an SOE, city Councillors ignoring majority public opinion, lies being told, people being fobbed off and hear of money changing hands, then NZ's claims to environmental and political purity on the world stage just don't wash.

The general ineffectiveness and huge cost and impact of wind farms will no doubt be covered in minute detail by others who submit, so I won't repeat, for example, the excellent information which can be readily accessed on www.palmerston-north.info but certainly urge you to examine it very closely.

I respect you as individuals on this board of enquiry but ask that you consider why you have been chosen. Have you been chosen, as my husband says "to get the job done", or will you really make a decision that is independent of lobbying by big business, greedy landowners and a government more interested in carbon credits than the future of an entire city? The fate of this city now rests in the hands of just 5 people, not the 75,000 who actually live

here. To quote my husband again "there is enough material here for a blockbuster book, but whether it is ever written depends on who writes the last chapter"

Monica Stichbury

10 / 2 / 2009.

179 Fitzherbert Avenue

Palmerston North

Email: pkstichbury@gmail.com (not for publication)