

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

My/our Full Name(s): Russell Alan Hayhurst

Postal Address: PO Box 1796 Palmerston North 4440

Work Ph: Home Ph: Cell: 027 243 2745

Work Fax: Home Fax: Email: rahayhurst@xtra.co.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

I have attached two pages

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):

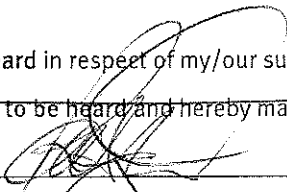
That a turbine free zone be established between Palmerston North City and the wind farm such that no turbine is closer than 10km from the city boundary.

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):  Date: 17/2/09

(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 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:

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
Manatū Mo te Taiao

New Zealand Government

Submission on Mighty River Power Ltd Application for Resource Consent.

My name is Russell Hayhurst and I am an occupant of 155 Pacific Drive in Palmerston North.

I am concerned that my opinions about this Proposal will be considered irrelevant and that the needs of many must outweigh the needs of the few will dominate. That the wind farm is said to have even international importance according to the Minister, actually renders my voice mute and this submission worthless and a total waste of time. However I firmly believe that if I don't make a submission then the absence of my submission will be trumpeted loud and long.

While I am not opposed to wind farms I am opposed to a wind farm in my own back yard. The Application is for just such a place as I live in the foothills of the wind farm site.

Palmerston North City people have long been in favour of preserving a green belt through the city. I am also in favour of preserving as much as possible the natural heritage as presently found in Turitea. To say that there is only a 5% change to the ecosystem (or whatever amount it actually is) values change above all else. What we are actually seeing is that the population outside of Palmerston North is dictating what happens here. The big and the powerful are saying "minimal impact on environment" and major benefits for all.

Clearly it must be a cost effective means of energy production. Even when huge amounts are going to be paid annually to land owners. These land owners are wanting just such an economic opportunity. What about the small land owners? At this stage only three out of 10 houses on Pacific Drive above ours and closer to the wind farm are occupied and public disinterest in purchasing property in our area is huge. Planned residential development adjacent to our property and the existing Pacific Heights subdivision are also developing very slowly now. Why are people saying with their wallets, "I don't want to live near a wind farm?" As I am one of the lucky ones who will be living near a wind farm and I will be able to list the benefits to myself personally as well I don't think there are any at all.

In 2005, Mighty River Power was selected through a tender process by PNCC to develop and build a wind farm on council-owned land within the Turitea Reserve. To my knowledge the People of Palmerston North have not been consulted on this with a referendum.

However my chief concern is noise. The majority of people will be able to sleep undisturbed, is the intention. But intentions are mere words on paper. The fact that the turbines will be audible is deemed irrelevant.

When I went to the lunchtime information display on the proposal put on by the Tararua District Council in Pahiatua the noise of the wind farm was described to likely be as noisy as "a refrigerator." Well when I stay in a motel or hotel I can assure you that without fail, I turn off the refrigerator in the room so that I can sleep. I will not be able to turn "the refrigerator" off when the wind farm is operational and I am concerned about the noise impact on my personal life. Two kilometres will seem like in the next room.

The proposal recommends that alternative tv aerials to disrupted analogue aerials be provided. Big deal. If I am forced to leave because of the noise who will care less when I cannot obtain the same value as the purchase price for my house. Will there be any compensation? Others who are not lucky enough to live near a wind farm will be saying, "that's their problem." So there will be few voices supporting my claim. Is there anyone positioning themselves politically with this social justice point of view? None that I know of.

Question:

1. The turbine noise charts for the 16 locations where noise levels have been monitored indicate that the generation noise will occur at a very limited range of wind speeds. The charts suggest there will be wind speeds greater than 50% of the time when that the turbines will not be operational. Either the charts are misleading or the turbines will not be operating much of the time. Are the charts misleading? If they are misleading what else is misleading.

Can the wind farm proposal be amended so that a compromise to my personal preference is reached? Yes. The Proposal states that "The Turitea Wind Farm site is located approximately 10 kilometres south-east of Palmerston North." That sounds like a respectable distance away from the general population. Why not be definite and precise and state that The Turitea Wind Farm site is located no closer than 10 kilometres to the city boundary of Palmerston North and thereby make a turbine-free zone.

In conclusion I believe the Proposal should not be allowed to proceed. The industrialisation of the landscape is a perpetual reminder that an avalanche once started cannot easily be frustrated. It is indeed pointless to attempt to shout above the noise of the wind. But people should be valued more than economics. It is the diverse landscape of people that makes our country a land sheltered from the harshness of economic realities.