

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
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): Mr. Mark Rounthwaite & Mrs. Penny Rounthwaite

Postal Address: 191 Ngahere Park Road Turitea RD4 Palmerston North

Work Ph: 06 350 3478

Home Ph: N/A

Cell: 0292 484 805

Work Fax: N/A

Home Fax: N/A

Email: MARounth@toyota.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

We feel that the proposed wind farm will have a disproportionate negative effect on the environment and lifestyle of residents.

Please refer attachment - 'Rounthwaite Turitea Wind Farm Submission'

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):
Denial of complete plan or at least the removal of windmills in the water catchment area and those that most affect residents, 0129-0133 & 0074-0090.
Limit the development hours of operation to weekday - 8:30am - 5pm,
weekend -10am - 5pm.
Disallow 10,000 L diesel fuel storage.

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:

(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.)



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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.



Ministry for the
Environment
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New Zealand Government

Summary

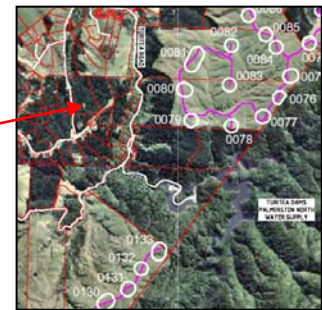
February 22, 2009

1. Think that the proposed wind farm is too close to a large group of residents and will unfairly affect their lives.
2. Think that it is unnecessary to locate the farm so close to such a large group of residents given it is likely that ample wind can be secured further south where considerably less families will be affected.
3. Think that the purity, integrity and security of the town water supply cannot be guaranteed with the introduction of a wind farm in close proximity.
4. Think that Palmerston North is saturated with wind farms around the ridge line, the addition of the MRP farm will adversely impact on the landscape/skyline.
5. Experience of the Rounthwaite's when living in Ashhurst proves that the lack of effect claims by wind farm company experts are misleading.

Introduction to the Rounthwaite's

Family of 4, Penny (Mum), Mark (Dad), Ashton (12) and Natasha (6)

Live at 191 Ngahere Park Road which is within the 2 km zone.



Have a 25 acre property that is used predominantly for tree production (pines) and as a family homestead.

Purchased the property in early 2004 (we could not find anyone who knew anything of a wind farm being planned for Turitea at the time of purchase).

Purchased to give our children a better standard of living, experiencing a rural (but close to city) atmosphere with a Peaceful & Quiet, high quality lifestyle. Also to escape the dominating, intrusive & noisy wind farm established during our time living in Ashhurst.

Currently the property is much loved with many hours spent outside enjoying the quiet and peaceful experience.

Built house in 2007/8, after MRP's assurance that the proposed farm would not affect our lifestyle. However, MRP only acknowledged their intentions around the Turitea Reserve site but omitted the intentions in relation to the adjacent private land (which was significantly closer and more intrusive). It is fair to say that we would not have built if this knowledge was offered up. It is possible MRP knew that information about the closer development intentions would have been untenable to us and wanted to avoid liability.

Think that the proposed wind farm is too close to a large group of residents and will unfairly affect their lives

- Constant mill noises/vibrations - Our property is very quiet, one could say it has an amphitheatre type tendency. This means that any introduced noise is likely to travel to our living area with little or no change in volume. At our request MRP has promised to set up datum noise measurements at our property. We have received numerous dates when this was to happen, however it hasn't to date. Our experience is that random noise is ok, constant noise is not as it works away at one constantly, culminating in tiredness, irritability and lack of sleep.
- Dominating size of turbines – Our experience is that their constant presence can become intrusively dominating, not dissimilar to the feeling that you get when one is constantly being watched.
- Light Flicker of blades – Our experience is that light flickering off the blades at certain times of the day in certain positions of one's living area can cause significant distraction and annoyance.
- Years of developments with dust & noise – MRP appear to be talking about a 3 year production plan. This includes work days and weekends. This could mean that residents are going to be subjected to 3 years of

development dust & the associated noise from machinery and support vehicles like helicopters (which already appear to becoming more numerous due to MRPs study action) etc.

Think that it is unnecessary to locate the farm so close to such a large group of residents given it is likely that ample wind can be secured further south where considerably less families will be affected.

- The proposed MRP wind farm proposal seems to be the only one in the Palmerston North area that is close to many residents (approximately 150 households in the area).
- The hillside spans southward with few interruptions to Wellington. There are many ideal locations where residents will not be affected. It is possible that some of these locations are adequate wind suppliers.
- We think the proposed MRP wind farm could be situated southward where it would be less intrusive on residents and the environment.

Think that the purity, integrity and security of the town water supply cannot be guaranteed with the introduction of a wind farm in close proximity

- The town water supply stored in the dam on the Turitea reserve is critical to Palmerston North.
- The purity of this water cannot be compromised, particularly since a large number of residents (approx 75000) rely on it.
- No matter how good the intentions or actions are, if the Wind farm goes ahead as planned, the risk of contamination from soil, leaking diesel etc is increased. We feel that any increased risk is untenable when the worst case result could be contamination of the water supply for Palmerston North.

Think that Palmerston North is saturated with wind farms around the ridge line, the addition of the MRP farm will adversely impact on the landscape/skyline

- Palmerston North already has 6 wind farms involving many different turbine sizes and configurations
- It is most likely that the addition of MRP's proposal will be the straw that breaks the camel's back, linking all farms together causing a dominating panoramic intrusive ridgeline.
- The introduction of sustainable wind generated farms nationally is important, however we feel that Palmerston North residents are disproportionately sharing the national responsibility to their lifestyle detriment.

Experience of the Rounthwaite's when living in Ashhurst proves that the lack of effect claims by Wind Farm Company experts are misleading

- Lived approximately 2-4 kms from Wind Farm at Ashhurst.
- MRP have suggested that apart from possible TV reception problems, other affects will not happen. The Ashhurst wind farm company experts also said this prior to development.
- Noticed after the commission of the Ashhurst Wind Farm –
 - Intrusive constant noises on hot still nights with windows open
 - Minor level vibrations
 - Dominating stature of the farm
 - TV reception quality was reduced
 - Significantly more house power failures
 - Significantly more traffic on the saddle road (not as safe to walk down to the swimming holes)
 - We also experienced increased noise disturbance in certain wind directions, similar to that of an aircraft taking off but constant and relentless.
- The constant cumulative effects of these items reduced our lifestyle enjoyment.

What does the Rounthwaite Family request the Environmental Court to do?

- Disallow the entire MRP Wind Farm Proposal

or

- Disallow turbine development in the Turitea Reserve Catchment area.
- Limit the Wind Farm by disallowing 0129-0133 & 0074-0090 (windmills location numbers).
- Limit the development hours of operation to weekday - 8:30am – 5pm weekend -10am – 5pm.
- Disallow 10, 000 L diesel fuel storage.