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SUBMISSION ON MIGHTY RIVER POWER LTD APPLICATIONS FOR RESOURCE CONSENT

Section 145 of the Resource Management Act 1991

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| 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'] |
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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: Mr Mrs Miss Ms (Please circle the appropriate title(s) or print clearly below)

My/Our Full Name(s): MARK EMMETT MALONE & SHARON KATE MALONE

Postal Address: 295 KAHUTERAWA RD, RD4, PALMERSTON NORTH 4474

Work Ph: _____ **Home Ph:** 06 3575248 **Cell:** 021 209 6427

Work Fax: _____ **Home Fax:** _____ **Email:** k.malone@ucol.ac.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

PLEASE FIND ATTACHED

Please use more pages if you need to.

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

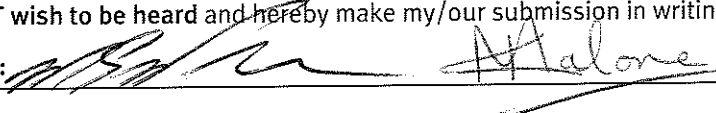
PLEASE SEE ATTACHED UNDER ON FINAL PAGE

Please use more pages if you need to.

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

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:** 20/2/09

(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

| | 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.

20/2/09
✓ VIA e-mail.



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao

New Zealand Government

TURITEA CALL IN.

The Malones @ 295 Kahuterawa Road, RD4, Palmerston North 4474.

Mr & Mrs ME Malone (Mark Emmett Malone, Sharon Kate Malone)
295 Kahuterawa Road
RD4
Palmerston North
4474

Home phone: 06 357 5248

Cell phone: 021 209 6427

1. Introduction:

We are a family of four with ages from 9 – 44. Mark Malone has a PhD in chemistry and is employed as a Research and Development Manager at Fonterra Research Centre and Sharon Kate Malone is employed on a part time basis as an Academic Administrator with a tertiary institution.

We emigrated to New Zealand in 2005 because we were attracted by the lifestyle that New Zealand had to offer. Shortly after our arrival we bought a rural property with 10 acres of land on Kahuterawa Road because this offered us an outdoor lifestyle both on our property and within the Kahuterawa Valley. We wanted the peace, quiet and visual tranquillity – and 295 Kahuterawa Road offered us this. In the due diligence that we did on the property no developments or plans for industrial developments which would compromise our environment were apparent.

As a family we enjoy the outdoors and bought the property 4 years ago so that we could enjoy the rural views and take advantage of the walks, bike rides, natural environment and open countryside provided in the Kahuterawa Valley (in particular to give our children access to the great outdoors).

2. Context:

We live at 295 Kahuterawa Road, RD4, Palmerston North, 4474. The windfarm will be within 2 – 2.5 kms of our property and the closest turbines are no.s 0123; 0124; 0125; 0122; 0052; 0121; 0120 as well as slightly behind these are: 0133; 0132; 0131; 0130; 0129; 0128; 0127; 0136; 0135; 0134.

3. The particular parts of the application which we oppose are:

All applications in their entirety.

4. The reasons for our submission are set out below:

This application consists of 122, 125 metre high turbines, many of which will be placed on a highly prominent and visible ridgeline less than 2kms from our house and there is a certain degree of permanence associated with them. *Basically the rest of our lives.*

We feel that since the implementation of Te Apiti Wind farm, little or no studies have been undertaken as to the negative effects these structures have had or are continuing to have on

the people who have had to live with them. Any complaints, which are numerous, have been dismissed and people involved have been silenced by agreements with the wind farm companies themselves. The total lack of local and national guidelines on the management of wind farm development is blatantly obvious as the 'march of the spinning wheels' continues along our landmark ridgeline. We are therefore totally against any further wind farm development in the Manawatu.

Visual

Our family have worked our way to a position where we could live with our family for the rest of our lives in a country environment close to a City. Our house affords us an expansive view of the entire Manawatu region. Due to the secrecy this application has been carried out in, we did not know that our house would be in the direct shadow of a wind farm of such proportions, with associated transmission lines (pylons) directly in our view path. If that information had been forthcoming in August 2005, the date we purchased the property, we would not find ourselves in this position (we actually avoided buying a property because it had pylons on it).

It is said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder and that most people find the wind farm structures graceful and soothing. However, at a close distance they are a visual eyesore. . . At a height greater than 120metres the turbines will dominate the landscape and will ruin the beauty of the Tararuas. It is worth noting that these turbines will be 50% taller than even the tallest building in Palmerston North City (The FMG Building) and will create an industrial landscape within a rural area. These turbines will not be stationary objects on a ridgeline, but indeed moving, operating electricity generating machines with a very industrial appearance.

In addition to the Turbines the Power lines running down the valley will ruin our views in a southerly and south easterly direction. It is worth noting that Palmerston North council has made large efforts to place infrastructural features such as power lines underground in the city and this development is disappointingly contrary to this trend in an area in which they have encouraged rural housing development.

We object to having 122 fully operational electricity generating machines starting less than 2.5 kms from our house for the rest of our lives turning our 'backyard' into an industrial landscape.

Noise

Much of our home life is spent outdoors. When we are not labouring (happily) in our garden or in the fields, we spend as much time out on the deck as we can – eating, relaxing, entertaining, studying or working. There are the sounds of birds and the stock as well sounds of farm machinery which is an expected and accepted part of rural life.

Being within 2.5km of a number of the turbines will mean that we will be exposed to continuous noise from the windmills. Houses presently close to existing turbines have installed double glazing to reduce this noise pollution. This is all well and good for alleviating the noise if one wishes to stay indoors with the windows and doors continuously closed, but

will not address the noise when we venture outdoors (the primary reason we have chosen to live in a rural setting).

We object to the noise evaluation given by windfarm companies given that these structures are exceeding the size of any that have been constructed in the area at the moment – what do they base their assessments on? There is a total lack of information regarding directly to any negative health effects that may be caused by the noise emitted by these wind turbines, both audible and inaudible. This is of major concern to us.

Seismic Effect

It would seem that turbines generate a clearly detectable seismic activity yet there is no mention as to how far this may travel and what effect it might have.

Traffic Assessment

We fail to see how the existing roads put forward for use by the Mighty River Power Ltd can fully sustain what is expected of them over the construction period and ongoing life of the wind turbines. And what of any decommissioning phase? This proposal has decided to totally neglect the safety of all road users in the area as we have seen no detailed information on the upgrade process. It is therefore impossible to comment on the result any upgrades may bring because it is totally incomplete.

Destruction of the Nature Reserve and Natural bush

A key facet of New Zealand heritage, yet a reserve which did not allow 'humans' to venture into it, now somehow seems to allow enormous structures (125 metres high) to be built in it. It is disingenious to believe that this will not have a negative impact on local flora and fauna particularly bird life. It is argued that this will allow the Nature reserve to be open to hikers and tourists. However, people such as ourselves will not be attracted to walk in the area because of the large and noisy industrial structures dominating the environment (and lack of any bird or wildlife/insectlife).

Economic Impact on Palmerston North and the region

The expansion of the windfarms across the Tararua's is likely to have a negative economic impact on Palmerston North and Manawatu as a whole. The most obvious impact will be on house prices but there are other economic impacts that are difficult to quantify such as the attraction of skilled people into the region. To date, Mark Malone's experience (and many of his professional colleagues) in Palmerston North know that it is difficult to attract key talent and skills into the region either nationally or internationally. One of the issues is skill shortages but another is that Palmerston North is not blessed with the natural attractions of other cities within the Country. The introduction of this windfarm will create an industrial landscape that will make the attraction of talent even more difficult. We believe that this will have a wide impact across Industry, education, local government, crown research institutes and small to medium sized industries. It is not inconceivable that some organisations will relocate to other areas if they are not able to recruit the people and skills they require. There will be a minority of individuals who will benefit from having turbines on their land, but overall the industrial landscape will be to the detriment of the wider community.

Yes, jobs will be created for a period however this will be short term targeting 'blue collar workers' and overall will not contribute significantly to the local economy whereas the major employers e.g. Fonterra, Massey are a longer term option.

Given the rest of New Zealand's view of Palmerston North of being 'not a very attractive place', one would think that instead of creating an industrial landscape (by destroying the natural bush and reserves), the Ministry of the Environment and councils would be enhancing more beautiful spaces for people to enjoy and engage in, thus attracting more people to the region.

We seek the following decision from the Board of Inquiry: We oppose the application of Mighty River Power Ltd for the following:

- Land use consents – Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council
- Discharge Permits – Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council
- Land use consents – Palmerston North City Council
- Land use consents – Tararua District Council

For the structures and activities associated with the development, construction, installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of 122 wind turbines (in the Manawatu and Tararua Districts to generate electricity and associated ancillary activities) at the Mighty River Power windfarm, situated in the Tararua Ranges – a 14 km stretch of the Tararua Ranges approximately 10 kilometres southeast of the Palmerston North City Centre and approximately 11 kms west of Pahiatua.

We decline the application or at the very least turbines no.s 0123; 0124; 0125; 0122; 0052; 0121; 0120, 0111, 0112, 0113,0114, 0115, 0116, 0117, 0118, 0119 as well as slightly behind these are: 0133; 0132; 0131; 0130; 0129; 0128; 0127; 0136; 0135; 0134, 0055, 0056, 0054, 0048, 0110, 0047, 0046, 0037, 0045, 0044, 0036, 0035, 0034, 0033, 0032, 0031, 0030, 0057, 0058, 0059, 0060, 0061, 0062, 0063, 0064, 0065, 0066 as well as the reserve turbines and the power (transmission) lines going through the Kahuterawa Valley.

We wish to be heard in support of this submission and will present evidence relating to the points raised in this submission.

Note: We have put a hard copy of this application in the mail using the self addressed envelope supplied to us.