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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 | 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'] |
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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): PAUL WARREN STICHBURY

Postal Address: 179 FITZHERBERT AVENUE PALMERSTON NORTH.

Work Ph: _____ **Home Ph:** _____ **Cell:** _____

Work Fax: _____ **Home Fax:** _____ **Email:** Paulstichbury@gmail.com

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):

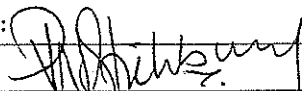
SEE ATTACHMENTS

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):  **Date:** 12/2/2009

(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.)

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.



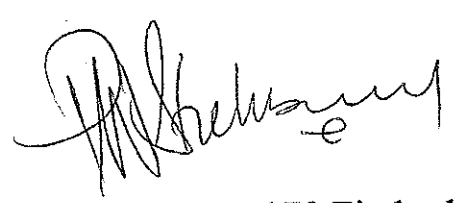
Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

New Zealand Government

TO THE BOARD OF ENQUIRY TURITEA WIND FARM

Submission

Paul Stichbury



12/2/09

179 Fitzherbert Avenue
Palmerston North.

Email : address withheld

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 Rangi

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.

[Handwritten signature]
A

12/2/2009

To the Board of Enquiry Turitea wind farm proposal.

Greetings to you all.

As the appointed Board of Inquiry you carry on your shoulders the extremely onerous responsibility of balancing many conflicting subjective viewpoints concerning the Turitea application and the well-being of many nearby residents. To assist you in your endeavours to arrive at a wise, equitable, just and fair decision I am presenting a comprehensive submission, the bulk of which is in the form of a website which canvasses many, but not all, of the issues associated with this proposal.

www.palmerston-north.info is presented as a hard copy in Appendix 1 followed by some relevant emails in Appendix 2 to illustrate the horse trading processes that were taking place and to support the claims made below. Appendix 3 is from the website and comments on recent developments. Appendix 4 is an aerial view of the Wellington fault line right behind the proposed wind farm. Appendix 5 contains a selection of photos to illustrate the extensive earthworks required for erecting wind turbines and also a few photos to expose some of the speculative earthworks that have taken place prior to any consenting processes.

The printed version of the website does not include the links, which are there for you to explore. All links are chosen as a single destination and there is no expectation that you go beyond them. The links can be characterised as supporting the general themes I present here, namely that this proposal is a monumental environmental and social disaster. It is essential that the video links are viewed by the Board. Indeed, if it is possible, the video links should be played in public during the hearings. This website has been available to the public for more than 6 months as evidence of a commitment to an open and democratic dialogue. Mighty River Power have been regular visitors. It would have been socially responsible if MRP had taken the same approach with the community at large, but there is no evidence of that at all, something which I will elaborate on further. Some of the material posted on this website could now be regarded as historical in relation to this proposal but nonetheless it

helps to give context. There are several issues which are not covered specifically on the website and I propose to air these now.

The city has become the victim of a concerted and behind the scenes effort to impose the wind farm on the community. The most overt stages have been the following.

A. A vague and nebulous document distributed to all households under the signature of the previous mayor, Heather Tanguay. There is a link to this document on the website. The image at the top of the document is of a view looking along the ranges into *Horowhenua*. The foreground is of a small section of Browns Flat which is out of bounds to the public. It is a windswept landscape, which appears to lend itself to a wind farm. It bears no reality whatsoever to the landscape experienced by city residents.



B. Buried in the document is a series of promises which were made to the public. These promises were exposed by me as nothing but a tissue of lies when I made this submission on the

Palmerston North Water Supply Bylaw 2008

in writing and orally before the Council. The media were not present at this public meeting. Here is the abridged version of the written submission and the oral submission I made, **with comments**. The submissions are in *italics*.

PNCC claimed in the consultation document that the proposed Eco Park, which includes the reserve, would provide the following recreational and tourism opportunities.

1. 4WD access
2. orienteering
3. cross country
4. triathlon
5. tramping
6. battery powered boats on the reservoir
7. an up market Eco Lodge
8. turbine treks
9. abseiling off the dam
10. mountain biking
11. kayaking
12. horse trekking
13. quad biking
14. guided walks to the water's edge in the reserve
15. regular steam train rides loaded with " excited " tourists who then make a bee line to the "eco" park.

This document drew very substantial opposition from the public when it was realised that PNCC, at the time, intended to deceive on its own citizens by promising all sorts of wonderful recreational opportunities, which were not compatible with protected catchment status. This will go down in NZ history as the most egregious example ever of a public authority trying to hood wink ratepayers into accepting a development which is manifestly not in their interests.

Comment: two thirds of submitters on the consultation document vigorously opposed the change of purpose, providing detailed and persuasive arguments against the change, while those in favour were pathetically weak and ranged from a "letter to God " and a wind farmer (unknown at the time), rambling about his fertility – 4 children, CO2 and his commitment to the environment because he killed the occasional opossum. The "consultation "was a jack up – the decision had already been made. Not all Councillors even bothered to attend all of the submissions evenings. It was only flyers which were distributed in some parts of the city which forced the Council to appear more consultative.

The Friends of the Turitea Reserve challenged the decision through a narrow legal lens in the High Court. This was done knowing that the outcome would most likely be unfavourable as the issue was one simply of the interpretation of reserve status and not one of morality.

Comment: A group of concerned citizens raised approximately \$80, 000 to pursue this case.

People facing the Council at the Turitea submission hearings in 2006 were in many cases met with indifference, arrogance and an ignorance based on sparse and deliberately withheld information.

Comment: The public watched in amazement at the farcical Turitea consultation process and MRP couldn't believe their luck to have found a Council who, in my opinion, were misled and misinformed by Council Officers acting outside the Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 2002. The "consultation" was merely a "tick the box" exercise in my view, one shared by many others.

The consequences of the wind farm on the community have never been addressed and I urge you to fully consider the following.

2006 Census data shows that there were 7,542 people, that's 10% of the city's population, living in Massey, Linton, Turitea and Aokautere who will end up living directly beneath the wind farm and well within the noise envelope of this installation. Evidence from TAG in the Motorimu appeal, which has just gone before the Environment Court, provides very substantial and robust support to my contention that this wind farm will be a financial disaster for the surrounding area and the city at large in addition to compromising the integrity of our water supply. Home owners, and there were 2,004 dwellings in 2006 in the four areas just mentioned, face an immediate drop in the value of their properties of 20 % once the wind farm is approved. This claim is supported by international experience. Here is an example. The Daily Mail on 6/2/08 ran a story entitled " Wind Farms: Blowing Money On A Fantasy" and had this to say.

*"The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors estimates that the price of a house located close to a new turbine falls by 20 per cent, **if the owners are able to sell at all** "*

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This results in a loss of equity of \$120,240,000 if you take a conservative average value per property of just \$300,000. If you care to drive around the Summerhill side of the city you will see numerous properties for sale, particularly on Polson hill and the Pahiatua track. Not all property for sale has a "for sale" sign displayed, however, as there are "quiet" listings. Our property at Ngahere Park was placed on the market a year ago. We instructed our agent to advise potential purchasers that there was the possibility of a wind farm right behind Ngahere Park. We did this for two reasons. Firstly we believed there is a moral obligation on our part and secondly we wished to avoid being sued by an aggrieved purchaser. Three immediate neighbours are also trying to sell. On one a tender process, followed by an auction, has so far failed to produce a result. Nobody in their right mind wants to live under a wind farm. It would not surprise me if further down the track PNCC is not sued for damages or property owners simply stop paying rates on what was formerly an asset but which has become a liability. You are putting people's assets at risk for a paltry revenue stream while at the same time irreparably damaging the city at large. Development will continue on the flood plain of the Manawatu River where Horizons has identified that the Fitzherbert Avenue bridge will in a massive flood act as a dam and funnel water into the Hokowhitu basin. Does the Council believe that the country's current high level of economic activity will continue indefinitely? What will the Council's accounts look like when oil hits \$200 per barrel? Both ratepayers and the Council will be broke.

Comment: We were fortunate, in the circumstances, to receive an offer 30% below valuation for our highly desirable property (It has a 1,000 sq metre building platform, spectacular views over the Manawatu, a dam, an establishing orchard, 1,200 high pruned pine trees, a woodlot for firewood and a patch of regenerating bush with a stream), from someone who only wants to build a workshop, because no one wants to live below a wind farm.

This is clear evidence of the effect this industrial scale wind generation facility has already had on property values. The "strategy" of a 60 year lease will mean victims are all long dead before the leases come up for renewal. In the meantime the proposed 10 year time span MRP wants to build their huge factory will put property values and land and home owners into a dreadful limbo. Is this what MRP is "excited" about?

The other "strategy" MRP has pursued with vigour is to force ministers in both the previous and current government to fast track the wind farm. Why? Well, this has been done with the express purpose of avoiding having to deal with an agreed National Policy Statement On Renewable Electricity Generation

currently under consideration and also to avoid the consequences of PNCC's landscape study, which is certain to either severely restrict or indeed prevent further wind farm activities within the city boundaries. It also means that Mighty River Power did not have to front up under the conventional RMA process with its democratic checks and balances. Under a conventional process it is my view that this proposal would not make it to first base. In fact the city is being sacrificed for the Emissions Trading Scheme and I said as much in a radio interview with Marcus Lush on 3 /9 /2008. The noise standard for wind farms is also under review and MRP wants to get this project approved ahead of the very likely tightening of this standard.

This resolution was passed by Council.

"That the chief Executive be asked to prepare a report designed to lead to a policy for the city in relation to the siting and operation of wind farms that may be either fully or at least partly located within our city boundaries, and that the report:

- (a) has particular regard to health, amenity and landscape matters, conservation values and property values, without limitation.**
- (b) Is based on relevant local and international knowledge and experience;**
- (c) Is suitable as a basis for a council-initiated District Plan Change; and**
- (d) and that a report on progress be presented to the Planning and Policy Committee meeting in February 2009"**

Progression of stage 2 of the Landscape Study will need to take into account the above resolution of Council.

MRP is running scared of this as the majority of Councillors are against the Turitea Wind Farm s facts previously unavailable have become uncomfortably clear. Their strategy is to get approval for the wind farm before it is too late. Why is MRP trying to foist this highly controversial proposal on Palmerston North when it has proposals for other wind generation facilities that are much further away from residential areas and thus less likely to severely impact on and blight the lives of so many people. On current performance you can bet that MRP will also want these wind farms fast tracked before the National Policy Statement On Renewable Electricity Generation, is promulgated and the real, detrimental costs of the Emissions Trading Scheme come to bite the New Zealand economy hard at the worst possible time with the global economy in turmoil with no end in sight. A moratorium on such

developments is the only sensible course to give time for a rational assessment, which would, in my view expose the fallacy of being able to control the climate. Tens of thousands of eminently qualified scientists would agree. See the relevant section on www.palmerston-north.info Proponents can only quote from IPCC sources, which base their faulty analysis on computer models trying to make predictions a hundred or more years into the future. So far they have been dead wrong, but don't take my word for it, check the data. As an aside no computer model predicted the economic collapse which is occurring and far more computer power has been applied to the economy than has ever been applied to "climate." CO2 is not a pollutant but essential to all life on earth. It may surprise you to know that the CO2 levels in the room where the hearings take place will be around 1,000 ppm, the same level as in commercial greenhouses. If any of the wind farmers present turn red in the face it won't be the result of a lack of oxygen, but the result of their agitation that a fortune is slipping from their grasp. They are the only ones to have benefitted from good faith bargaining while the rest of the community has been denied the protection of the RMA and District Plan which are obliged to protect the economic, social and cultural sustainability of communities.

After a very mild warming the world's climate has cooled for the past 7 years to 1995 values and like the fascism and communism which preceded it, the warmism, espoused by the few with an eye for a quick quid will have its brief day in the sun.

Note, Mighty River Power has had no experience in either building or running an industrial scale wind generation facility.

Fire as stated in the Turitea Reserve Management Plan is a major concern.

See section 4.7 Protection from Fire

"The major catastrophic threat to the Reserve is fire. Major loss of vegetation through fire would impact on the achievement of many objectives under this plan through damage to flora, fauna and ecosystems and degrading the quality of the water supply. A high level of fire protection and risk management will continue to be required."

Turbines can and do catch fire. The nacelle and blades are made of combustible fibreglass compounds and can be thrown on disintegration considerable distances. Wide firebreaks are not feasible in the reserve. Forest cover removed in a fire, a fire which would be very difficult to control, would lead to substantial erosion on the upper slopes leading to siltation of the dams. How could this city ever afford to replace the dams when its spending to date has been out of control? It would take a hundred years to for vegetation to return. We just cannot afford the risk.

A wind farm has the potential to incinerate the reserve. What is the point of having policies in place which you aren't even prepared to follow.

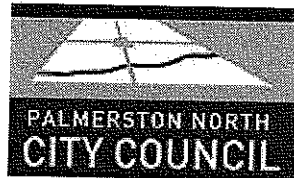
Comment: the website has numerous examples of catastrophic turbine and substation fires out of control. Fire fighting foam and toxic chemicals have no place in our water supply. There is no way MRP can confidently mitigate against events such as these, despite any "promises" they may make before the Board of Enquiry. The issue of fire has not been addressed and should be a key concern for the Public Health Risk Management Plans for a water supply. I consider this to be gross negligence. Recent catastrophic fires in Melbourne's water catchment show just how vulnerable Palmerston North's water supply is.

"Three geomorphic fault sections have now been described for the Wellington Fault in southern North Island. These are the Wellington-Hutt Valley segment, and the Tararua and Pahiatua sections. New data presented here show that the Pahiatua section: (1) is a moderate slip rate, dominantly strike-slip fault section of the Wellington Fault; (2) produces multi-metre single-event dextral displacements; (3) has accrued large geomorphic displacements during the latest Pleistocene and Holocene; (4) has a short recurrence interval of less than c. 1100 yr; and, (5) individually has the capability to generate an earthquake of $M_w > 7$. The Tararua section of the Wellington Fault has seismic hazard parameters that overlap between the Wellington-Hutt Valley segment and Pahiatua section. The possibility of these geometric sections combining to cause a multi-section rupture on the Wellington Fault or beyond has serious implications for the Wellington region and can only be investigated by thorough paleoseismic analysis"

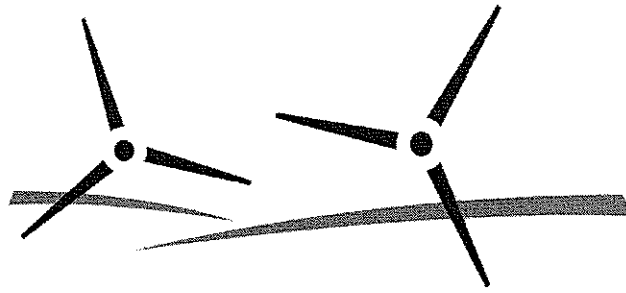
Comment: See attached aerial photograph showing the shutter ridges on the Pahiatua side of the Tararua Ranges. They are more dramatic than those on the famed San Andreas Fault. I have seen them myself on a geography teacher's field trip. Why would anyone build a wind farm right next to and parallel to a major fault line? The Kahuterawa valley is also a fault line and it is right next to and below Brown's Flat. Browns Flat is literally the sump or headwaters of the Turitea water supply.

C. Manipulative Visual stimuli.

On your arrival to Palmerston North you will encounter billboards which have stylized wind turbines on them. This logo is on PNCC's website, letterheads, vehicles etc. When I asked PNCC lawyer John Annabel what process was used to choose this logo and what community involvement there was I got a detailed response **about this logo**, which went through a lengthy process before being adopted.



This logo, however is the one I meant in my question to PNCC and it transpires that **there was no community involvement in its choice at all.**



Manawatu

Young Heart, Easy Living

I accept that this is an attractive logo but is its purpose, however, to condition city residents into accepting turbines within the city boundary? It has been used extensively for several years.

D. Turbos Rugby team.

The name Turbos was chosen because the name Turbine(s) had already been taken. Local wind farm, roading and site preparation contractors are sponsors of this team. A mock-up of a turbine is on permanent display at the Turbos home grounds here in Palmerston North. Is this yet another “conditioning exercise?”

E. Political aspects

- The failed move by the previous mayor to have turbines installed at all entrances to the city.
- The attempt to focus all local government policy on the unproven and recently discredited concept of “global warming” and the ability to control the climate.
- The withdrawal by PNCC of paid advertising from the Manawatu Standard as a response to what some PNCC staff considered undesirable reporting on the issue of the wind farm and the awkward questions

being asked. The Manawatu Standard was very upset about this and despite meetings the issue was not resolved. Is coercion and manipulation of the local paper in this way an acceptable practice for a local body? In these circumstances the newspaper cannot comment on what has happened. Freedom of the press is an essential part of the checks and balances in a democratic society.

- A new editor at the Manawatu Standard has seen a resumption of reporting on this issue but is very likely moderated by the potential loss of further advertising revenue.
- Payments were made by parties, who stood to benefit financially from the wind farm, to cover electoral expenses during the city's last local body elections.
- Some selected residents receiving PNCC "sympathy" because the turbines are "too close"
- PNCC using ratepayer's funds paid for all the legal costs it incurred when fighting the challenge mounted by the Friends of the Turitea Reserve over the change of purpose. PNCC chose the most expensive option which was designed to wear down financially those involved in the FOTR law suit. It did this on behalf of just a handful of residents who stand to benefit from the wind farm. Those who stand to benefit made no direct financial contribution at all.

Further points for consideration.

- 1.** PNCC's legal team strenuously fought against the lawsuit brought by The Friends Of The Turitea Reserve and then passionately and successfully argued against the Motorimu turbines but will now argue *for* the Turitea project. The irony here should not escape anybody.
- 2.** A small group of PNCC employees in conjunction with Mighty River Power, a commercial arm of the Government has been working assiduously for this disastrous project while at the same time receiving a salary from city ratepayers.

3. Our contact with Mighty River Power has been totally unsatisfactory. When we first learnt of the wind farm, then a secret, it was the result of us getting a valuation done on a parcel of land in the beautiful Kahuterawa valley. The block in question is on the Adam's family farm. (NB We still have an option to buy this land, providing it is not ruined by a wind farm).

A friend of my wife's told us that there were turbines right above us at 309 Ngahere Park Road and that we were severely affected.

Through PNCC a meeting was arranged with Mighty River Power about 10 days before submissions closed on the Turitea change of purpose. At the subsequent meeting I consider that the MRP PR team was evasive, for example, they made statements that testing would take at least another 18 months, that there was no guarantee that the wind farm would go ahead and produced some glossy brochures on noise." Quiet as a library "we were assured. A trip a few days later to Te Apiti confirmed that noise would be a significant issue and we were dismayed at the racket from the turbines, particularly downwind in strong winds. The noise was significant 3 to 4 kms away. We later learnt that the turbine sites were already determined and that the pegs in the ground had been removed. From this point onwards requests for information from PNCC were treated with disdain. The obvious tactic was to delay, obfuscate, threaten to charge me for information which in most cases required only a "yes" or "no" answer, and when really pressed refuse to deal with me. The result was a story in the Manawatu Standard exposing PNCC's tactics. Attached is a series of emails which show how we were dealt with. I should point out that I have never opposed the wind farms in open country which are north of the Pahiatua track and had seen them as benign. With what I know now that is generally not the case at all. However, the large footprint of the Turitea proposal, the close proximity of turbines to peoples' lives and the grab for the last remaining range behind Plamerston North which was free of turbines has forced me to say "enough is enough".

See Philip Milnes' excellent assessment "When is enough, enough?" The link is on www.palmerston-north.info

<http://www.qualityplanning.org.nz/pubs/Dealing-with-cumulative-effect-under-the-RMA.pdf>

In addition to this I became more fully informed and realised that this project was never about renewable electricity generation "per se" because there is already too much wind generation in the Manawatu and a geographical spread is now required to contribute to security of supply.

Why is MRP the last cab off the rank in proposing this totally unreasonable and uneconomic proposal that will impact heavily by being too close to too many people?

4. Imagine how I felt when I read these statements by Chris Pepper on the Horizon's website.

Posted: January 18, 2005

"Water and Waste Services Manager, Chris Pepper, says the Council has known for the last 10 years that the top of the Tararuas, which is part of the Turitea reserve, could be effectively utilised for wind generation."

And

"Chris Pepper explains that any decision reached will depend on obtaining a resource consent which is the appropriate time for the community to make submissions."

Does such a stance pass all responsibility onto RMA commissioners or Boards of Inquiry without planning tools to balance decisions, when PNCC should have been looking forward in its town planning and policies to ensure the appropriate documentation was in place to protect the residents who purchased residential property within the targeted wind generation zone? Does this amount to gross negligence on PNCC's behalf? Or were the different arms of PNCC working in isolation at the time? Is PNCC liable for costs if the application proceeds and properties cannot be sold, equity is lost and health issues are identified?

Source: <http://www.ourregion.co.nz/news.php?articleID=509>

This evidence shows that PNCC had secretly planned a wind farm since **1995** but cheerfully allowed residential development to occur right under it, so that

it could take rates revenue, subdivision revenue, revenue from building permits, etc, etc.

In my view this is a fraud perpetrated on ratepayers where an element in PNCC planned to shelter behind the RMA and force residents to defend themselves! This is appalling conduct. Here we have an institution which has a rogue element trying to drag Councillors into an impossible situation.

5. Have you wondered why such a project as this has not made national headlines and been plastered all over the media as indeed other wind farm proposals have?

Mighty River Power and its “partner” PNCC have made sure that it has been kept as quiet as possible. MRP has in fact a “strategist”.

On a number of occasions I have posted on DomPost blogs information regarding the Turitea project and a link to the website (which is the subject of this submission). They were always deleted. This puzzled me but I persisted. Here is what I posted on July 16th, for the second time after the first similar post was deleted. This was just prior to MRP’s display in the Convention Centre.

“Intrusive noise from wind turbines is only one of the issues facing Palmerston North. Mighty River Power will next week reveal for the first time its planned wind farm for the Turitea Reserve and farm land in front of the reserve. The Turitea Reserve is the city’s water supply and last remaining area of native forest of any significance. Would Wellington countenance a wind farm in the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary ? Palmerston North faces a massive property devaluation on top of the 14% plunge in June. These issues are covered on this web site.


www.palmerston-north.info

Comment by Paul Stichbury — 16 July 2008 @ 9:01 am”

I then checked the sitemeter on the website and this is what I found. An electronic copy of this page for verification is available on request.

Palmerston North.info
 By Details > Visit Detail
 Visit 858

<< >>

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Domain Name | mightyriver.co.nz ² (New Zealand) |
| IP Address | 203.144.32.# (DMZGLOBAL) |
| ISP | DMZGLOBAL |
| Location | Continent : Oceania/Australasia |
| | Country : New Zealand  (Facts) |
| | City : Wellington |
| | Lat/Long : -41.3, 174.7833 (Map) |
| Language | English (New Zealand) en-nz |
| Operating System | Microsoft WinXP |
| Browser | Internet Explorer 7.0 Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 7.0; Windows NT 5.1; .NET CLR 1.1.4322; .NET CLR 2.0.50727) |
| Javascript | version 1.5 |
| Monitor | Resolution : 1280 x 1024 |
| | Color Depth : 32 bits |
| Time of Visit | Jul 16 2008 9:08:01 am |
| Last Page View | Jul 16 2008 9:08:01 am |
| Visit Length | 0 seconds |
| Page Views | 1 |
| Referring URL | http://blogadmin.stu...0&approved=2&spam=13 |
| Visit Entry Page | http://palmerstonnorth.blogspot.com/ |

Visit Exit Page <http://palmerstonnorth.blogspot.com/>

Out Click

Time Zone [UTC+11:00](#)

Visitor's Time Jul 16 2008 9:08:01 am

Visit Number 858

This shows that MRP had been monitoring my activities. The referring URL is this.

http://blogadmin.stuff.co.nz/wp-login.php?redirect_to=%2Fwp-admin%2Fmoderation.php%3Fignored%3D35%26deleted%3D0%26approved%3D2%26spam%3D13

which now takes you to this page (NB it has changed since July)

Stuff Blogs Have Been Moved/Updated

Three Things You Need To Know

ONE:

The new address is <https://blogadmin.stuff.co.nz/>

Note that we are using a self signed certificate for that site right now. Your web browser will give a warning about this.

TWO:

The login procedure has changed. An additional layer of password protection has been added and this requires an additional username and password.

This page will be updated soon with procedures for getting the new password to you. That should be sorted by Tuesday afternoon. In the meantime, feel free to contact Reed reed@catalyst.net.nz with any questions.

THREE:

Your existing WordPress username has not changed but your password has been expired and will need to be reset. You can do this yourself by visiting the [Lost your password?](#) page and following the instructions. This is a two step process.

The interpretation that could be placed on this is that either MRP or some associated party has hacked the Stuff.co.nz website to edit blog posts which it finds unfavourable, or it could be that Fairfax NZ actually allows such actions by MRP as they favour wind generation. Is it correct that the CEO for Fairfax Media NZ was previously on the board of Meridian?

The second post I made was allowed to stay as by now the fact that MRP was about to make its public debut with a few carefully selected photomontages at the Convention Centre meant that the cat was out of the bag.

It was obvious to me what had been going on and so I emailed copies of the sitemeter page to myself, John Adams, Helen Harker and my work email at Queen Elizabeth College in order to retain the evidence. On the 9th of November I went to find the page in my computer email and was shocked to find that either MRP or some associated party had hacked my home computer, my work email and deleted all trace of the page (sent mail and inbox). John Adams claims to have lost the same emails and many files but was unable to find concrete evidence of wrong doing. Thankfully, one had been missed though and Helen Harker was able to forward to me the email I had copied to her months earlier. Note, prior to the 9th November I had regularly checked to see that this page was secure on my computer. Whoever did this was keen to remove all trace of MRP's apparent ability to access the media in this way. Blog posts generate very little in the way of internet traffic as a rule and quickly date. MRP was, in my opinion, very sensitive about publicity as their proposal is so outrageous. Why would an SOE risk stooping to such dubious practices? One can only speculate as to what other censorship may have taken place.

The following has been reported in the press.

April-May 2006: State-owned power companies Solid Energy and **Mighty River Power admit hiring spies to monitor the activities of protest groups**, including Save Happy Valley, a group occupying the site of a proposed West Coast mine. The spies are recruited by an Auckland private investigation company, Thompson and Clark

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/4489507a11.html>

And

Another corporate accused of spying

29/05/2007 6:44:02

Greenpeace suspects it may also have been spied upon by a major corporation.

Solid Energy has defended its decision to hire an investigations company, which planted a spy among the Save Happy Valley Coalition which is protesting against the state-owned enterprise's open cast mining on the West Coast.


Greenpeace alleges Mighty River Power may also have hired the same private eye company last year, when Greenpeace was fighting the SOE's bid to re-fire the Marsden B coal-fired power station in Northland. Greenpeace says it has been trying for some time to find out what information Mighty River had on it, including anything gleaned by private investigators. **The issue is now before the Ombudsman and the Privacy Commissioner, after Mighty River refused the request.**

<http://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/newsdetail1.asp?storyID=118241>

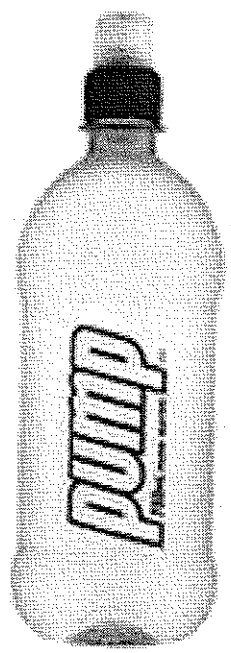
Sir Paul Reeves is on MRP's board. He is an important and respected figure in the community and a former Governor General. How much does MRP's board know about MRP's modus operandi?

6. All businesses need to be alert to opportunities and this page from the sitemeter on www.palmerston-north.info is revealing.

> Visit Detail
Visit 3,798

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Domain Name | (Unknown) |
| IP Address | 204.124.196.# (Coca Cola Bottling Company of New York) |
| ISP | Coca Cola Bottling Company of New York |
| Location | Continent : North America Country : United States  (Facts) State : Georgia City : Atlanta Lat/Long : 33.7481, -84.3849 (Map) |
| Language | English (U.S.) en-us |
| Operating System | Microsoft WinXP |
| Browser | Internet Explorer 6.0 Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1; .NET CLR 1.1.4322; .NET CLR 2.0.50727; MS-RTC LM 8) |
| Javascript | version 1.3 |
| Monitor | Resolution : 1024 x 768 Color Depth : 16 bits |
| Time of Visit | Jan 10 2009 12:34:32 pm |
| Last Page View | Jan 10 2009 12:35:03 pm |
| Visit Length | 31 seconds |
| Page Views | 2 |
| Referring URL | http://images.google...his-in-your-water-su |
| Visit Entry Page | http://palmerstonnor...ur-water-supply.html |
| Visit Exit Page | http://palmerstonnor...ur-water-supply.html |
| Out Click | http://www.wind-watch.org/video-portugalfire.php http://www.wind-watc...deo-portugalfire.php |
| Time Zone | UTC-5:00 |
| Visitor's Time | Jan 9 2009 8:34:32 pm |

Here we can see that the Coca Cola Bottling Company is already monitoring developments in respect of the city's water supply. Note what the referring URL is. The business opportunity is obvious should there be a catastrophic fire in the reserve. This company is a major supplier of bottled water in New Zealand.



I can assure you that I did not approach the company. This is a genuine visit to the web site and is not manufactured.

7. The strategist for Mighty River Power Neil Williams said

"We believe the call-in process represents the most effective way forward."

and

"Opting for call-in is about doing it once and doing it right, thoroughly, and with due consideration for all participants, which is actually in everyone's interests in terms of cost and time."

and

Mighty River Power was excited by the call-in process, and welcomed public comment. "It's a process where the community has to have a voice, whether it's the council or it's someone else."

This is just "spin". The public have been ignored, lied to, and sidelined (just listen to CEO Doug Heffernan on the audio clip on www.palmerston-north.info This interview aired at primetime at 8.15 am on a week day on RadioLive.)

STOP PRESS

On or about the 15th February Mighty River Power or its associates hacked Radio Live's website and deleted the podcast linked to the web site. This is the email sent to Marcus Lush 15th February to ask for help.

CONTACT MARCUS LUSH

Phone: 0800 RADIO LIVE (0800 723 465)
Fax: (09) 360 0390

or send a message:

 Email:

 Name:

 Message:

Hi Marcus, on 3rd September 2008 you interviewed me on RadioLive about the Turitea wind farm. I have had a link on www.palmerston-north.info to the interview where Mighty River Power CEO Doug Heffernan lied about the size of the Turitea wind farm. Mighty River Power who are known for their espionage against opponents have either deleted the audio file, or had someone else delete it for them. Everything else in your archive for September works but not the interview with me and Heffernan. Can you help me, thanks. Paul.

When the change of purpose for the reserve was instigated, every household in the city received a copy of the "promotional" document. We have waited in vain for Mighty River Power, PNCC's "partner" to give every household a factual and detailed brochure.

-----8. "Global Warming" has morphed into "Climate Change". I made a detailed submission to the Environment Court over the appealed Motorimu turbines. The property which we owned was well within the noise envelope of this consented wind farm. 80 turbines in a south easterly are pointing directly at it. In my submission I demolished the Anthropogenic Global Warming argument for wind turbines. My evidence was taken as read. No one questioned the submission I made. Other submitters, however, were subjected to hours of grilling by a high priced legal team out to score the most petty of points and to belittle the evidence presented. The evidence that I could produce now is extremely compelling and in fact the prize offered by <http://www.junkscience.com/> has never been claimed. This is from their website.

If you think it's a no-brainer that humans are causing catastrophic global warming, you've missed your opportunity to earn an easy US **\$500,000.00!**

That's right, the prize money has increased again as we seek warming advocates' price threshold! But we didn't find it and the competition has now closed after 483 days.

9. On February 13th a presentation was made by PNCC to the community on how to make a worthwhile submission. The presentation is available online from PNCC's website and I recommend that you view it.

<http://www.pncc.govt.nz/content/48564/TURITEA%20RESERVE%20SUBMISSION%20WORKSHOP.pdf>

There are important points to be made about this presentation.

- The workshop was held **just 10 days before submissions closed**. Why?
Slides 1 and 2
- Wide community participation sought, (well that's interesting! When, exactly?) – **so the blame for a poor outcome will then rest with the Board of Enquiry, and not PNCC** – no community participation has been encouraged until now. Why? slide 3
- **Most significant resource consent application concerning Palmerston North's environment in 50 years or more . . . !** Why has this stunning

statement been made just 10 days out from the closing of submissions?

Slide 4

- “Decision makers take notice of community views” The track record of many consent hearings to date, show the complete opposite. The Council for reasons already discussed handed over the city to a commercial arm of the Government. Did PNCC fail to exhibit duty of care by believing that it could pass the responsibility of its partnership with MRP on to RMA Commissioners? Slide 8
- The contract with MRP had been signed and money paid before the change of purpose submissions even opened. This does not sit well with my idea of what I consider to be either just or fair. PNCC’s wind farm analysis has never been made public. Slide 35
- The proponents and beneficiaries of this scheme have been in collaboration from the start, a courtesy that was not extended to other nearby residents who would potentially be affected. Only at the eleventh hour are residents urged to “collaborate,” by PNCC after being previously ignored misled and dragged into the courtroom.. Slide 60

The misinformation promulgated by PNCC and MRP; PNCC overlooking its responsibilities under the Local Govt Act 2002 to promote the cultural, social and economic well being of communities; MRP for failing to be socially responsible by claiming that the effects of traffic, noise and visual impacts will be no more than minor when clearly this will not occur for all residents; and the lack of honesty, equality, justice and fairness in processes are just some of the factors the Board of Enquiry will need to take into account. Obviously this wind farm is not in the best interests of residents, the local environment, the landscape or the city’s future and I strongly recommend that it be declined. To approve it will bring future grief to communities throughout the country because similar proposals will be encouraged because of what will be seen as a major relaxation of environmental and societal protection.

The juggernaut which has occurred over the last few years with wind generation has led to more strident and rapacious proposals for wind turbine sites, to the point where national benefits fail miserably to balance out the loss of amenity to local communities. People are important and common sense and sound energy planning must take precedence over artificial constructs such as Emissions Trading and carbon credits which distort well planned truly sustainable development.

I sincerely wish you well in your deliberations and will abide with whatever decision you may make.

Paul Stichbury.

12/2/2009

179 Fitzherbert Avenue

Palmerston North

Email : PaulStichbury@gmail.com - not for publication.