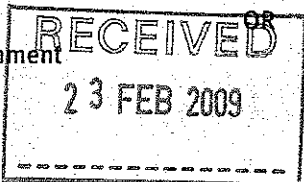


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# SUBMISSION ON MIGHTY RIVER POWER LTD APPLICATIONS FOR RESOURCE CONSENT

Section 145 of the Resource Management Act 1991

To: Freepost Call In  
Ministry for the Environment  
PO Box 10362  
The Terrace  
Wellington 6143



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): JOSEPH POFF

Postal Address: 658 Pahiatua Track, Palmerston North

Work Ph: 0274 880 818 Home Ph: 353 8164 Cell: 0274 880 818

Work Fax: Home Fax: Email:

Please tick the relevant boxes on the next page to identify whether you are making a submission on all applications for resource consent or just some of them (please identify).  
Please also indicate on the back of this form (✓) whether you support, oppose, or are neutral in relation to the applications. If you are making a submission only on parts of an application for resource consent, please note this when specifying the reasons for your submission.

The reasons for my/our submission are:

If you are attaching further information tick for yes

As attached

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):

Approved

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: 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.)



Ministry for the Environment  
Manatū Mo Te Taiao

Use the tick boxes below to indicate the called-in applications for resource consent that your submission concerns.  
Use a clear tick in the appropriate box or boxes (✓).

I/we make my/our submission concerning all applications for resource consent below

OR  
My/our submission only concerns the applications for resource consent that I/we have ticked below:

Support Oppose Neutral

	Support	Oppose	Neutral
<b>Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council – Land-use Consents</b>			
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.			
<b>Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council – Discharge Permits</b>			
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.			
<b>Palmerston North City Council – Land-use Consents</b>			
RC0068: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to establish and operate a wind farm in the areas within the Palmerston North city jurisdiction as generally shown on the included map</li> <li>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</li> <li>for the western side of Pahiatua Aokautere Road not meeting access requirements at the location shown on the included map</li> <li>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</li> <li>for the construction of a 220 kV electricity transmission line and substations as shown on the included map.</li> </ul>			
<b>Tararua District Council – Land-use Consents</b>			
1448: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>for land disturbance of more than 200 m<sup>3</sup> 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</li> <li>for upgrades to South Range Road and the construction of new site access at the location shown on the included map</li> <li>for turbine and wind monitoring mast structures not meeting height requirements within the Tararua District</li> <li>for the modification of a Significant Natural Feature in Schedule 3.3 (ie, Tararua Ranges Ridgeline)</li> <li>for not meeting noise requirements</li> <li>for clearance of indigenous vegetation in the areas within the Tararua District as generally shown on the included map.</li> </ul>			

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 Mo Te Taiao

New Zealand Government

## **Reasons for submission in support of resource consent applications for Turitea Wind Farm**

### **Background to submitter**

1. My name is Joseph Poff, I am a refrigeration, air conditioning and heating engineer and a registered practicing electrician. I run a contracting company and a dry stock farm where I live with my three children. I have lived in the city of Palmerston North for most of my life.
2. In the late 1970s, I worked as a teenager on farms around the area where I now live, held a possum trapping block in the Turitea Reserve and left school wanting to be a farmer with fencing and shearing skills in hand. After about six months working as a farm hand I changed to a career in the Refrigeration industry as an apprentice.
3. The Refrigeration Industry has enabled my dreams and I have worked as a commissioning and trouble-shooting engineer on industrial refrigeration systems in New Zealand and around the world, including those in nuclear, coal and gas-fired power stations. I still engage in off shore Commissioning Contracts but these are now limited due to family priorities. The last job I completed was in Iran commissioning two 1.8 MW Absorption Chillers for a petrochemical (LDPE) plant.

I have been awarded the national Energy Efficient Commercial Design Award 2002 presented by the Minister, jointly awarded by the Institute of Refrigeration, Heating and Air Conditioning Engineers and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority. This was for the design of a heating, ventilating and air conditioning system in a commercial building. The building was the Palmerston North RSA.

4. I am a part owner and manage 193ha of farm land on the Pahiatua Track, on the northern end of the proposed Turitea Wind Farm development. Eight of the proposed turbine zones are located on or near our property boundary.

### **Reasons for submission**

5. I strongly support Mighty River Power's applications for resource consent to construct, operate and maintain the Turitea Wind Farm. My reasons for supporting the project include the following.

#### *World class wind resource*

- 5.1 It is well documented that the Tararua Ranges are home to an excellent wind resource, which is famous for its severity. Having spent a significant amount of time living and working in the Tararua Ranges, I am well aware of just how good the available resource is.
- 5.2 The wind makes life difficult to work on the farm, at times it is near impossible. On numerous occasions the wind has prevented us from undertaking farming or other planned activities. Grass growth is also slow on west facing exposed faces. Our schedules are therefore largely dictated by the weather, and subject to change. It can also be very windy in the Ranges, even when it is quite calm in Palmerston North itself.

- 5.3 I therefore consider the Turitea Wind Farm to be an excellent use of our land and the surrounding area. Indeed I originally purchased this property with a view to potentially establishing some wind turbines on it myself.

#### *Sustainability benefits*

- 5.4 I am very concerned about global warming and the potential effect climate change on the next generation, our kids. This was reinforced during my time working in Iran in 2007, when I clearly remember this issue dominating the EURO NEWS, which was the only English / foreign TV Channel we could get. The evidence is almost undisputed, the ice caps are melting, carbon levels are at higher levels than ever before and Climate Change sceptics are almost extinct. I therefore fully support developments such as the Turitea Wind Farm, which is addressing greenhouse gas emissions. I am also very proud that through this and other projects, Palmerston North can be recognised as “leading the charge” against climate change, and contributes significantly to meeting New Zealand’s international obligations in this regard. I consider that this is a very serious issue and that we should be taking steps to address it now, not leaving it for future generations to try and “clean up” after us. It is always easy to do nothing but right now is the time for positive action!
- 5.5 From my time working in other power stations, I am also particularly aware of the issues surrounding both nuclear and thermal generation. Given the significant health and safety issues it involves, I would be totally opposed to the establishment of nuclear energy generation in New Zealand. We have every right to be proud of our homeland for taking the Anti Nuclear stance and have gained positive recognition for this around the world.
- 5.6 I realise a minimum level of base load is necessary to ensure security of supply in certain climatic conditions. However, I consider we should minimise our reliance on thermal generation technologies as much as possible. I note that Mighty River Power has provided an expert assessment as to reduction in carbon dioxide emissions (or carbon dioxide displacement) that the project will contribute to our environment. However, I understand that these calculations only take into account the amount of carbon dioxide that would otherwise be emitted during electricity generation at a particular thermal plant. They therefore do not include the additional greenhouse gas emissions that occur prior to generation – for example in transporting coal firstly to Tauranga, and from there by train, for use in the Huntly Power Station. The extraction and environmental impact on the lands from which the coal was taken is also not considered in this strategy. The actual benefits to be obtained from the project in this regard are therefore likely to be much greater than identified in Mighty River Power’s application documents.
- 5.7 In light of the above, and the issues associated with other forms of sustainable energy generation (particularly hydro), I consider wind generation to be the best and only technology currently available to fulfil our renewable energy goals. As a further benefit, the additional generation capacity of the Turitea Wind Farm may be sufficient (when combined with that from the existing wind farms) to meet the whole of the City’s electricity demand. This would be an important step toward Palmerston North being able to claim itself to be a “carbon neutral” city.

- 5.8 Through the current project, I believe that Palmerston North has a unique opportunity to make a real contribution to the national electricity supply, which will bring significant benefits to New Zealand and the wider community. I feel very strongly that this opportunity should not be lost simply for the sake of a few, and their own private interests.

*Benefits of local generation*

- 5.9 I consider that both Palmerston North and the wider Manawatu will obtain significant benefits in terms of security of energy supply and autonomy by generating electricity in our region, and in close proximity to the City. These will be further enhanced through development of the Turitea Wind Farm project.

*Confidence in Mighty River Power as a developer*

- 5.10 I have had extensive dealings with Mighty River Power and its representatives since the company was awarded the Turitea Wind Farm contract through the City Council tender process in 2005. Over this time, I have established complete confidence that the company has acted, and will continue to act, as a responsible corporate citizen. The company's representatives have also made every effort to speak with affected landowners such as myself, and ensure any concerns or issues we may have are fully addressed.
- 5.11 I note that there has been a huge amount of misinformation and scaremongering spread about the project, particularly since Mighty River Power was awarded the contract by the PNCC and the Change of Reserve Status decision. (2006) This has become extreme since resource consent applications were lodged in August 2008. Typically it has been factually incorrect, underhand and / or anonymous. I feel concerned that this "misinformation campaign" was never actually directly countered by Mighty River Power or anybody else. I believe some members of the public have adopted the misinformation presented without checking for authenticity and that public opinion on this project may have been adversely affected by this. Mighty River Power seems to have a policy, rightly or wrongly, of not engaging in the media. Mighty River Power has preferred to focus on working through concerns with individuals and groups directly.
- 5.12 I have no concern and am sure that Mighty River Power will be a reliable and responsible developer. It will continue to be as responsive as possible to the needs and concerns of local residents.

*Environmental effects will be acceptable*

- 5.13 The closest turbines from the existing Te Rere Hau wind farm are situated approximately 900m from my house and I can see a dozen of them from my bedroom window. While we can occasionally hear these turbines, it is simply background noise and no worse than listening to the wind in the trees. It is much easier to live with than traffic noise from the Pahiatua Track, but this is our world and I am not complaining about either. The existing wind farms have also not had any significant visual, landscape, water quality or other environmental degradation effects, despite the dire predictions in this regard prior to their construction. I therefore have no concerns at all that the effects from the Turitea Wind Farm will be any different, or in any way unacceptable.

5.14 For the sake of our environment we must use Wind Turbines now. Wind Turbines are completely removable. As such, at the end of their 25 year lifespan, they could be decommissioned with little (if any) lasting damage to the landscape or surrounding environment. All we must do is rent a small piece of land, harvest an infinitely renewable energy source and buy precious time. This time will be used to develop alternative options for green energy. Hot Rock, Tidal, Wave or even another form of Clean Green Electricity Generation may well be available options in 25 years time.

#### *Economic benefits for Palmerston North and Manawatu Region*

5.15 The project will generate significant revenue for Palmerston North, primarily through the payment of royalties to the Palmerston North City Council (PNCC) and neighbouring landowners. Approximately half of this royalty revenue will go directly to the PNCC (Rate Payers). The Rate Payers of our city are therefore clearly the single largest beneficiary of this project should it be allowed to proceed. Such benefits are essentially a passive income unrelated to rates, and I consider that this revenue will be welcomed by our citizens in order to sustain the City's infrastructure and meet ratepayer expectations, particularly in the current climate of economic recession. The vast majority of all other royalties paid out will be spent in the local area and therefore benefit our local economy.

5.16 The project will also create approximately 250 construction jobs, as well as other direct and indirect employment opportunities. The recession is now upon us and is meeting the predicted worst case scenarios. Jobs are insecure in all sectors, construction has been badly hit, we need to do everything we can to keep our region working and this project could not have come at a better time in this regard. In my capacity as a contractor, working and talking to people on many different sites around our city, I am fully aware of the severity of the economic situation we now face.

#### **Conclusion**

Palmerston North has a world class renewable resource on our doorstep, and the existing wind farms hold world records for their generation yield. Climate Change is a significant issue that we must begin addressing now and wind turbines are the most environmentally friendly technology currently available for sustainable energy generation. The City and the greater Manawatu Region also stands to gain a significant revenue stream from the project that is unrelated to rates.

In light of the above, I consider we would be negligent if we did not fully support Mighty River Power in pursuing this as a significant opportunity to secure an environmentally and economically sustainable future for Palmerston North, the Manawatu, New Zealand and wider international community. I further consider that we should not allow this opportunity to be curtailed, or possibly even lost, because of the work of an out spoken, vocal and verysmall minority.

I always feel a sense of pride when returning home to Palmerston North, particularly from the dirty industrial factories of the world, to see the ever green Tararua Range adorned with the Wind Turbines pumping out clean green electricity for the common good of all.

The Wind turbines have become an icon for our region. We have every right to be proud of our Wind Turbines. They are a symbol of hope for the next generation in the battle against climate change.