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23 FEB 2009

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 Robert Symes, Ms Alana Groom, Mr Leo Groom, Mr Sam Groom-O'Brien

Postal Address: 21 Amuri Lane, RD 4, Palmerston North

Work Ph: 06 351 7255 Home Ph: 06 353 0909 Cell: 021 393 419

Work Fax: 06 351 7260 Home Fax: _____ Email: robert.symes@kordia.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 live in the area very close to the proposed development.

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):

Resource consent for the project declined or any hearing delayed until national guide lines are set regarding proximity to dwellings, Maximum Saturation levels and No-go areas

Please use more pages if you need to.

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): R.G Symes - By Email. Date: 22.02.09

(Signature of submitter, or person authorised to sign on their behalf is required. Note signature is not required for electronic (email) submissions. If this is a joint submission by two or more individuals, each individual's signature is required.)



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

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

OR

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

	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council – Land-use Consents			
104553: for vegetation clearance and land disturbance in rare or threatened habitats, near streams and on highly erodible land throughout the general wind farm site.		✓	
104554: for the construction of a double culvert in an un-named tributary of the Kahuterawa Stream as shown on the included map.		✓	
Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council – Discharge Permits			
104555: for the discharge of dust to air from the concrete batching plants to be located as generally shown on the included map.		✓	
104556: for the discharge of dust to air from the mobile crushing plant throughout the general wind farm site.		✓	
104557: for the discharge of wastewater from two operations and maintenance facilities to land to be located as generally shown on the included map.		/	
104558: for the discharge of stormwater from substations to land to be located as generally shown on the included map.		/	
104559: for the discharge of cleanfill to land in the form of spoil disposal sites throughout the general wind farm site.		/	
104560: for the discharge of stormwater from roads, turbine platforms and other areas to land.		✓	
Palmerston North City Council – Land-use Consents			
RC0068: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to establish and operate a wind farm in the areas within the Palmerston North city jurisdiction as generally shown on the included map to undertake earthworks associated with tracking and roading, turbine construction and associated buildings in the areas within the Palmerston North city jurisdiction as generally shown on the included map for the western side of Pahiatua Aokautere Road not meeting access requirements at the location shown on the included map for the storage of diesel (10,000 l) in bunded areas outside the Turitea water supply catchment, generally located at the two substation laydown areas shown on the included map, that exceeds the 0.2 effects ratio maximum in the rural zone for the construction of a 220 kV electricity transmission line and substations as shown on the included map. 		✓	
Tararua District Council – Land-use Consents			
1448: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for a wind farm (which is not listed as a permitted or controlled activity) in the areas within the Tararua District as generally shown on the included map for land disturbance of more than 200 m³ of soil and cleanfill material associated with tracking and roading, turbine construction, spoil disposal and other associated works in the areas within the Tararua District as generally shown on the included map for upgrades to South Range Road and the construction of new site access at the location shown on the included map for turbine and wind monitoring mast structures not meeting height requirements within the Tararua District for the modification of a Significant Natural Feature in Schedule 3.3 (ie, Tararua Ranges Ridgeline) for not meeting noise requirements for clearance of indigenous vegetation in the areas within the Tararua District as generally shown on the included map. 		✓	

NOTE: A copy of this submission form MUST also be sent to Mighty River Power Ltd at:

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
Manatu Mo Te Taiao

New Zealand Government

This submission is made as a jointly by our family.

We are:-

Robert Symes Telecommunications Technician

Alaina Gronn Registered Nurse

Leo Gronn Retired

Sam Gronn-O Brian Student

Our ages range from 20 to 88.

We live on a 1Ha Lifestyle section at 21 Amuri Lane in the Nghere Park area. We purchased the land in 2003 and built our house, in 2006. We purchased the section because of its proximity to and the view of the ranges, the relativity short distance to town, and for the peace and quiet. With all of the adults in the house doing some form of shift work, the ability to sleep during the day in a quiet environment was important to us. Our section is at the end of a 200m private road and our house is down a 120m driveway to minimize any potential noise effects from traffic and neighbors. This is the home we have built to take us through the rest of our lives. We investigated the area thoroughly before making the decision to purchase. Unfortunately, this project had not been put forward at the time.

We built our house to be energy efficient, we recycle, and we grow our own vegetables. We do what we can to protect and conserve our environment. We are not against Wind farms for electricity generation, but we do object to destroying the natural beauty of our environment when there are places where the same could be achieved with a much less impact to the environment. Not only is the reserve important to us but so is the landscape and our outlook. It no coincidence our local regional council is called Horizons.

We have a direct view of the hill that turbines number 74 through to 88 will be built on (similar to MRP montage titled VPS). And from the rear of our house we will have a clear view of turbines number 127 to 136. I estimate the closet turbines will be approximately 1.5km from our house, though this is difficult to ascertain as i haven't seen a map with a scale as yet. The layout of the land around our house is such that it is impossible to plant trees to reduce the visual or noise affects of these turbines. As there have been no background noise measurements completed in the surrounding area this is of great concern.

Because we are situated in a location that is upwind from the proposed wind farm in the prevailing wind, the sheltered side of our house is the side closest to the turbines. Naturally this is where we spend the majority of our time outside and this is the area that has the unobstructed vision and noise paths to the turbines. This will detract from our enjoyment when we use this outdoor space.

The first turbines installed on the ranges drew positive comments from visitors to the region. Visitors would often comment how peaceful and serene they looked, out on the ranges, off in the distance, slowing rotating, giving us an idea of the raw power of nature.

These comments continued until the newer turbines started being built in front of, or behind those already existing. The comments then become those of visual pollution, too many, stacked up like a picket fence, destroying the landscape, and why did you let this happen?

The proposal by MRP appears to be a land grab. They are proposing using all of the space on the ranges not already committed to similar projects. I think there is a feeling that the wind farms in general are pushing the boundaries of what the public will tolerate, and that they had better get as much as they can, as fast as they can, before there is a precedent set, or there is legislation to restrict such activities in the future. Let us please use this opportunity to show that preventing irreversible damage to the environment is more important than corporate profits. The wind farm can be built elsewhere, it may cost a little more, but what price do we put on protecting the last untouched, easily accessible section of our ranges.

I have also found some of the information used in reports submitted by MRP to support the resource consent to be inaccurate.

Examples,

In the "Turitea Wind Farm – Compatibility with Radio Services" report the potential effects of radio reception on dwellings within a 20km radius are discussed. This area includes all of Palmerston North. The figure of 10716 building points (pg 21 of the report) including sheds, barns and unoccupied dwellings is used, this is multiplied by an occupancy factor of 0.44 to estimate the number of buildings actually occupied. This would suggest the number of occupied dwellings in this 20km radius is only 4715. Information from the 2006 census, obtained from the Department of Statistics website, puts the population of Palmerston North City at 72033. If using the figures in the report this means there are over 15 people living in every occupied dwelling. A further check of census data shows there were 25629 households within the Palmerston City boundaries, (there is no measure of occupied dwellings). This figure is 5.4 times higher than the information used in the report. These figures are for Palmerston North City only. When those outside the city are included the number rises.

Also the map used to show the location of the affected dwellings (pg 22 fig 3) is so out of date it does not show Nghere Park Rd, Oram Drive, Guyland Drive, Fleetwood Lane, or Amuri Lane.

In the "Assessment of noise effects" report the map showing the placement of the noise measuring points on pg 13 again does not show Nghere Park Rd, Oram Drive, Guyland Drive, Fleetwood Lane, or Amuri Lane and no measurements were done at any location close to these populated areas. Oram Drive has a hill behind it to protect it from the prevailing wind and has an unobstructed view across the Turitea valley to the hills the turbines are to be constructed on. They suffer little local wind noise and there are no hills or vegetation to reduce the noise emanating from the wind farm. Possibly a worst-case scenario, yet no background noise measurements were completed in this general area.

The wind is not a localized phenomenon. This is not the only suitable location. If the wind farm was to be constructed at another location, we could protect our ranges, protect our people, preserve our views, and still produce renewable energy. There is no absolute requirement to build the wind farm in this area.

Thank you for your consideration.