

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

RECEIVED
23 FEB 2009
Afk SPM

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): Cameron Greig KNIGHT

Postal Address: 354 TURITEA ROAD, RDA, PALMERSTON NORTH 4474

Work Ph: (06) 350-4470 Home Ph: (06) 354-4028 Cell: (021) 137-7789

Work Fax: (06) 350-5636 Home Fax: _____ Email: c.knight@massey.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

Listed on attached document

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):

Please see end of attached document

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): [Signature]

Date: Feb 22 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.)



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

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

OR

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

Support Oppose Neutral

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

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

Freeport – 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.



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New Zealand Government

Submission in opposition of the proposed Turitea Wind Farm.

Cameron Knight, 354 Turitea Rd, RD 4, Palmerston North 4474

THE REASONS FOR MY SUBMISSION:

I am deeply worried by the proposed Turitea wind farm for the following reasons:

1. From my house at 354 Turitea Road I will have, as best I can determine from site maps, twelve turbines visible from ground up and an unknown number partially visible beyond the ridgeline. I live low in Turitea valley and my view is dominated by the nearby ridgeline leading to Bryant Peak. The difference in elevation between my house the ridgeline is roughly 150 metres. Adding twelve 125 metre wind turbines to the crest of this ridge will mean my view is completely overpowered by the site of so many turbines. The beauty of Turitea valley is a large part of my enjoyment of living there and I feel that this will be severely diminished.
2. The proposed turbines are larger and higher than any others in New Zealand and are to be sited very close to dwellings. Turbines 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, and 88 are less than 2 kilometres from our home. Turbines 78 and 84 are approximately 2.1 kilometres away. Despite Mighty River's production of sound maps, I do not believe that noise effects can be predicted, and object strongly to the proximity of these turbines. I am concerned both for my own family's and my neighbours' health. I also believe that the current uncertainty regarding approval of the wind farm and the uncertainty that will follow until they are eventually operating means that house and land prices in my area will fall. Perhaps they will return to normal in the future if the position and sound of turbines becomes a non-issue, but for the next few years I expect to have little chance to recoup the cost of my house if I do need to move. Mighty River is transferring value, without my consent, from my property to its own company and to landowners who agree to have turbines on their property.
3. While the water catchment is presumably safe from contamination during construction, downstream tributaries of Turitea stream are not, and no provision is made about water quality in the stream at any point past Turitea dam. The stream and swimming hole behind my house are an enormous part of the enjoyment I get from living there, as is the time I spend each day in Bledisloe Park at Massey University, where I work. A drop in water quality caused, for example, by erosion and silt runoff, would impact the stream and those who swim in it or enjoy its clarity.
4. The precedent set by allowing an industry to site its machinery in a protected reserve makes me very uneasy. This is a line that, once crossed, will leave no part of this country sacred or out of reach of profit-making industries. It should not have been allowed to happen. The vagueness of the proposed "Eco-park" does nothing to allay my concerns.

I SEEK THE FOLLOWING DECISION FROM THE BOARD OF INQUIRY:

Denial of consent to build all turbines within the Turitea Reserve; denial of consent to build turbines 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, and 88 on Bryant Hill; denial of consent to build turbines 54, 55, 56, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, and 136 (these turbines will significantly impact the view of the reserve); and denial of consent to build any turbines that affect the view of the ridgeline of the Tararua ranges and that are within 2km of inhabited dwellings.

If consent is granted to build any of the above-listed turbines I request at a minimum that the following conditions be imposed by the Board of Inquiry:

1. No turbines can be located within 2km of an inhabited dwelling.
2. Turbines with the most significant negative visual impacts (e.g. those immediately in front of the reserve, at the highest point on a ridgeline, etc) must be removed from the development.
3. Water quality must be monitored downstream of the water catchment area. Adverse effects on water quality as a result of sediment due to construction, during or post-construction erosion, spill of toxic substances, or any other cause are unacceptable.
4. Provision must be made for removal of the turbines at such time as the wind farm ceases operation.