

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): Dr Terrence Mark Stewart and Ms Annette Jill Swenson

Postal Address: 296a Grey Street, Palmerston North

Work Ph: 06-356-9099 ext 7941 Home Ph: 06-355-3004 Cell: 027-305-2792

Work Fax: Home Fax: 06-357-6404 Email: t.stewart@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

See appendix 1

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):

To completely reject the proposal to erect a windfarm on the Turitea site

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): (at the bottom of appendix 1)

Date: 17th Feb, 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

Manawatu-Wanganui (Horizons) Regional Council – Land-use Consents	Support	Oppose	Neutral
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
104554: for the construction of a double culvert in an un-named tributary of the Kahuterawa Stream as shown on the included map.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
104556: for the discharge of dust to air from the mobile crushing plant throughout the general wind farm site.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
104557: for the discharge of wastewater from two operations and maintenance facilities to land to be located as generally shown on the included map.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
104558: for the discharge of stormwater from substations to land to be located as generally shown on the included map.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
104559: for the discharge of cleanfill to land in the form of spoil disposal sites throughout the general wind farm site.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
104560: for the discharge of stormwater from roads, turbine platforms and other areas to land.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

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.

APPENDIX I

Case against the proposed Turitea Wind Farm

Palmerston North is a vibrant city with a focus on education and land-based industries. Its central location makes it an ideal venue for national conferences. Although not renowned as a tourist destination, Palmerston North has one (and only one) scenic feature; the Turitea ridgeline to the south-east which makes an attractive backdrop to the city. We have hosted a number of overseas travellers to this city and many have commented on how attractive this ridgeline is.

Much of this beauty has already been lost, with the construction of 200 large, ugly and randomly placed turbines on the northern sector of this ridge. Although these can be seen from the city, they are some distance away. Not so the Turitea ridgeline, which forms a natural backdrop to the town.

Wind turbines are large, ugly and are a form of visual pollution. The proposal to erect turbines on this ridgeline will destroy the only remaining scenic feature of this city! It will destroy its value as a place to work and live, devalue properties and have a huge impact on the all institutions in the city not least the University. Why would students and staff come to such a place if the only thing they could see when they lift their eyes to the horizon is a mechanical wasteland?

We are not against clean forms of energy. Our argument is that Palmerston North has already done its bit towards New Zealand's energy production. The natural beauty around the Manawatu Gorge has already been destroyed. NO MORE PLEASE! It's time for others in New Zealand to share the burden. There many, many areas out of sight in New Zealand which have similar wind indices. Build the turbines there!

Mighty River Power prefers this site, because it is close to a major substation and therefore transmission to the National Grid is easy. Owners providing land for the site also support this submission for purely financial reasons. However, the majority of residents do not, and if this plan goes ahead, the city will feel community democracy has been trampled on.

To the person who is reading this submission. Lift your eyes and glance out your window. Do you see a ridgeline close by? Imagine it haphazardly littered with industrial monstrosities. Is this what you would want to see every day?

Would any community want this?

Site these windfarms away from major metropolitan areas.

PALMERSTON NORTH HAS MADE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY. WE HAVE PLAYED OUR PART ALREADY. PUT THE TURBINES SOMEWHERE ELSE!

Terry Stewart and Annette Swenson



