25 September 2011

Dear Judge Newhook

Ref. Final Report and Decision of Turitea Wind Farm (Sept. 2011)

In my submission I alerted the Board to the issue of disintegrating and burning turbines and shadow flicker as potential hazards to traffic on the Pahiatua Track. I supplied the Board with DVD’s of burning turbines, shadow flicker and a disintegrating turbine. As a turbine at Tararua three has shed a 45metre blade and similar events have occurred at West Wind I requested the Board in light of these manmade hazards to seek an accommodation or an indemnity or from the NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY concerning flicker and turbine disintegration. The following statement is made on the NZTA website:

“The loss of life on New Zealand roads is unacceptable. Reducing road deaths and injuries, and the significant social cost they incur, requires improvements across all facets of transport – driver behaviour, speeds, vehicles, and roads.”

No accommodation or indemnity has been sought by the Board. Where else is there a wind farm in the world where traffic movements of up to 4,000 per day when the Manawatu Gorge is closed, as indeed it has been recently, traverse a winding steep road right under 125metre wind turbines with blade tips in normal operation spinning at 200kms per hour?

This from the manual for a Vestas 90 turbine.

2. Stay and Traffic by the Turbine

Do not stay within a radius of 400m (1300ft) from the turbine unless it is necessary. If you have to inspect an operating turbine from the ground, do not stay under the rotor plane but observe the rotor from the front.

Make sure that children do not stay by or play nearby the turbine. If necessary, fence the foundation. The access door to the turbine must be locked in order to prevent unauthorised persons from stopping or damaging the turbine due to mal-operation of the controller.

The following six turbines in the Final Decision are within 400 metres of the Pahiatua Track.

101, 102, 99, 98, 97, 96.

Collapsing turbines half the height of the 125 metre Turitea turbines are known to have cast debris 800 metres.

The Board has completely ignored this health and safety issue in the Final Decision.

I believe the Final Decision, which is unbelievably defective, must be withdrawn, revised and reissued after this matter is properly dealt with.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Stichbury

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