

To the Board of Inquiry Turitea Wind Farm

Draft Decision.

7/5/2011

PK Stichbury

Submitter 236

Thank you for this last opportunity to comment on the proposed wind farm. I have discussed the wind farm proposal with my husband at great length. I have two questions which I would like the Board to clarify.

1/ Why has the Board decided to approve a wind farm on the Wellington fault line?

This does not make sense at all, especially when I read this article in the Manawatu Standard.

Seismic study for lower North Island

STACEY KIRK

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An earthquake "as big as Japan" would devastate much of the lower and central North Island, if the Pacific and Australian plates were to rupture releasing all their energy, a GNS scientist says.

But a coast-to-coast seismic study of the plates will be the first time the boundary zone underneath the Wellington region has been studied in such detail. The project is being done by a team of New Zealand, United States and Japanese scientists, using equipment which GNS geophysicist and project co-ordinator Dr Stuart Henrys said would effectively provide a CAT scan of the earth's crust.

It is hoped information about the nature of the tectonic plates' activity would help prepare people for "whenever the big one hits".

"Without wanting to alarm anyone, if they ruptured and all of the built up energy was released in one go, it would be as big as the one in Japan, so yes the effects would be felt in the likes of Palmerston North and probably far further in all directions," he said. The information would be used to improve building design and help communities be better prepared.

Now, the Pacific Plate, to the east of the North Island, was being forced underneath the Australian Plate, but Dr Henrys said the two plates were not sliding past each other as they should. Rather, they were locked together in some places and it was only a matter of time before the built-up energy would be released.

"We want to understand a little more about that locking process with the plates so that before the day comes, we'll have knowledge of the type of shake that would be felt by people."

The project would see a number of "controlled earthquakes" – less than 1.0 magnitude – stretching between Paekakariki on the Kapiti Coast to Glendu Rocks in Wairarapa.

Explosives will be placed in 50-metre deep boreholes near seismographs, and scientists will be able to build a three-dimensional image of rock structures and the tectonic plate boundary beneath the lower North Island.

The earthquake-recording equipment will be deployed tomorrow.

2/ Why has the Board not mentioned the contract signed between Mighty River Power and PNCC and given an opinion on its validity?

My husband and I were lied to by the Council and it is now clear why. The Council was not prepared to help us as ratepayers because it would have to pay a \$3 million dollar penalty if it did not help

Mighty River Power or put any obstacle in its way. I have been told that the Council has an obligation to its ratepayers above all else. The Council is also a landlord for the wind farm and will be the authority to monitor noise complaints. The Council has very obvious conflicts of interest. Why is the Board turning a blind eye to this matter? I was born and lived in Hong Kong and this kind of behaviour by the Council is considered corruption and those responsible would go to jail. Is it different here in New Zealand?

I have two requests under the Official Information Act.

1/ Please provide me with the name of the lawyer who drew up the contract between PNCC and Mighty River Power.

2/ Once the final decision is made please provide me with the amounts paid to individual Board members and the overall cost of the Turitea hearings. I am asking this on the basis that I feel city ratepayers and the country have not received value for money.

Thank you for your time.

Monica (PK) Stichbury