

Oral presentation in support of written submissions to the Puketoi wind farm hearings  
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My great grandfather, Joseph Dawson, was an engineer and prominent nineteenth century bridge builder. He built the original Balance Bridge and the remnants of his Opiki Toll Bridge still remain. If he were alive today he would be astounded at the height and size of the turbines proposed for Puketoi and Turitea. Turitea being 125 metres and Puketoi 160 metres. A simple mathematical calculation shows that an earth movement resulting in just a one centimetre tilt in any one direction at the edge of the concrete foundation on which these turbines stand will result in turbines so out of alignment from the vertical that it will result in their being rendered useless. I'm sure Joseph Dawson would be astounded at the cognitive dissonance of the faceless, and not so faceless, individuals supporting wind farms on seismically unstable country. Just take a look at the aerial photograph in the application of the Puketoi range looking North. And what do you see? Why a dramatically tilting landscape to the West. This is an evolving landscape. The application identifies huge seismically induced landslides, and the potential for 10m movement in areas of the Eastern crest during an earthquake. Laughably it also states that this is a not a problem. However in section 4.51 of the geotechnical report it states and I quote:

“Lee and Begg (2002) describe the Wairarapa region as one of the most seismically active areas of New Zealand during historical times. There have been numerous earthquakes in the region since records began in 1840, i.e. Magnitude 5 to 6 (at least 40), 6 to 7 (at least 9) and greater than 7+ (at least 3). The largest earthquake in recorded times was at the southern end of the Wairarapa Fault which ruptured in 1855 resulting in a M8.2 event.

The regularity and severity of the seismic activity in the area is due to the close proximity of the subduction zone between the Pacific plate and the Australian plate off the east coast of Wairarapa. Seismic activity in the area is expected to continue in the future with similar regularity and severity.”

Now if this geotechnical report isn't one giant red flag, I don't know what else could be. Any prudent and fiscally responsible person would have immediately called the project off.

Information on the region's seismic hazards is freely available. For example, a child with modest computer ability can in short order find on government websites that the Wellington fault moves horizontally 4 to 5 metres and vertically one metre and yet

here we have MRP's Turitea wind farm approved right on an epicentre. This has to be a world first.

I note there is nothing in the application about the huge 7.6 magnitude Pahiatua earthquake in 1934. This earthquake shook the lower North Island and was felt as far away as Auckland and Dunedin. There was severe damage to buildings in Pahiatua. Furthermore, there is no mention of the series of major Wairarapa earthquakes in 1942 and 1943.

Since Mighty River Power wants corporate monstrosity flag ship wind farms on its books for the sell-off, this glossing over and general omission of earthquake hazards is nothing short of fraud, in the form of gross negligence, on the mums and dads who will unwittingly buy into the company. It is the Commissioners duty to bring this matter to the public's attention.

Mighty River Power's flagship wind farm consists of both the Turitea and Puketoi wind farms.

Kenderdine who chaired the Turitea Board of Inquiry made a political decision which was not founded on conclusive evidence based on facts, as set down in the terms of reference for the Draft and Final Decision.

The protocol states: "The draft and final reports are required to include the principal issues and the findings of fact."

Furthermore, in my opinion, Kenderdine undermined public confidence in the judicial process and failed to fulfil her oath of office. Was she deliberately chosen for the job, since a retired Judge cannot be legally pursued for a corrupt or faulty decision?

One of the Minister's reasons for the call-in was Palmerston North City Councils vested interest in the Turitea Wind Farm as evidenced by the Wind Farm Agreement. This bizarre, unethical and initially secret PNCC MRP contract, cancelled PNCC ratepayers' rights under pain of a 3 million dollar penalty. Ratepayers rights are enshrined in the Local Government Act 2002.

The wind farm contract is certainly one of the principal issues deliberately ignored by Kenderdine. Palmerston North City Council is heavily in debt and the three million dollar plus penalty ensures they will roll over like obedient dogs at MRP's command. However, you as commissioners can take cold comfort in the reports recently made to you that this and other matters can be discounted. Since they are fundamental to the transmission route linking with Turitea these matters will rightfully enter the political arena and will be forever contentious. These matters are highly relevant to the Puketoi application.

The theme of seismicity in this oral submission does not end here, though. Kenderdine is the chair of the Historic Places Trust, which was the only submitter to the Tararua District Council on its since adopted policy on earthquake prone buildings in the district. Owners have been given just 10 years to strengthen their buildings. And how many buildings is that you might ask?

The answer-a whopping 200.

Is the building we are meeting in today one of them?

You just can't make this stuff up. Here we have the Historic Places Trust under Kenderdine's tutelage demanding 200 buildings threatened with certain collapse be strengthened forthwith, but she herself ignored all evidence and warnings from submitters that the Turitea wind farm is right on the Wellington fault and that the Northern Ohariu fault runs right through the southern portion of the wind farm, under the transmission route and unbelievably next to the proposed substation.

Note this disingenuous and nonsensical statement quoted from the seismic evidence in the shoddy Puketoi application.

"The nearest major fault (the Wellington Mohaka Fault) is more than 20km away, so will not subject this site to any near fault amplification effects"

So here we have the seismic report for Puketoi pointing the finger at Turitea, saying in effect,

"Look *they'll* collapse but we'll only shudder violently, from a distance"

But wait, there's more, or should I say less. If you examine the application there are no maps showing the location of known active fault lines in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm, although two get a casual mention, for example the Makuri-Waewaepa fault, within just 2 kms of the wind farm and actually passing between turbines 13 and 14. As GNS Science states on its website no one has any idea when this fault last ruptured. The other fault mentioned is the active Saunders Road fault.

The geotechnical report then makes this completely false statement. "There is no evidence of active faults within the project area" Why is this? Is Mighty River Power up to their old tricks of trying to hide something? And when these faults rupture, and they most certainly will, will there magically be no "near fault amplification effects?" We all know the answer to this rhetorical question, don't we?

Furthermore, what can be read into the fact that Mighty River Power has pulled all reference to Puketoi off its website, other than a statement to say it lodged its application on the 3rd of August last year? This is astonishing and telling behaviour from an SOE, a branch of government, which under the mixed ownership model, will have its corporate responsibility objectives excluded in the new legislation along with obligations to comply with Official

Information Requests and intervention by the Ombudsman, *despite* being majority owned by the government. So it looks like MRP is getting in early, ahead of the legislation being passed.

Just as history is now harshly judging engineering failures on some Christchurch buildings and the lack of due diligence associated with warnings of the liquefaction risk, raised prior to red zone sub divisional development many years ago, history will also harshly judge the glossing over and ostrich like head in the sand approach to earthquake risk in the environs of this Puketoi proposal. It is not a matter of “if” but “when”.

Failure to address this issue is a dereliction of duty.

Claims that Mighty River Power is a responsible community minded corporate citizen is challenged by the following extract from correspondence from Mighty River Power to the Turitea Board of Inquiry, dated the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2011. This correspondence dealt with the issue of the possibility of a transmission line to Turitea which the Board of Inquiry raised. Mighty River Power stated

“, no final decisions have yet been made in this regard, including exactly where this line would connect to the national grid.”

“ It is further noted that any necessary consent applications for Mighty River Power’s Puketoi project have not yet been lodged, let alone granted. As such, it does not form part of the existing environment for the Turitea project. It is therefore outside the Board’s jurisdiction with respect to, and irrelevant to its consideration of, Mighty River Power’s present applications.”

Just six and a half weeks later on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, after this information was provided by MRP, the Puketoi proposal emerged with details of the transmission lines. The transmission line details clearly would have taken a very long time to develop.

MRP in its resource consent application then confirms this deception where it states the following.

“Mighty River Power lodged consent applications for its proposed Turitea Wind Farm (in the Tararua Ranges) in August 2008. This included an associated transmission line connecting the Turitea Wind Farm to the 220kV Linton substation. A draft decision report on the Turitea Wind Farm was issued by a Board of Inquiry in early 2011. The Proposal is based on extending the Turitea Transmission Line to Puketoi”

Mighty River Power in its discussion of the transmission route further states:

“ By late 2010, after more than two years of field work, Mighty River Power had achieved the support of a large number of landowners. “

There is no evidence that discussions were held with “potentially” affected neighbouring landowners on the Pahiatua Track, or in the Turitea and the Kahuterawa Valley. Those affected by the transmission lines have been oblivious to what had long since been actively planned behind their backs, *indeed for more than four years since 2008*. They were never consulted and to this day have never seen Turitea transmission line working drawings or photomontages. This deception was brought to Kenderdine’s attention and was ignored.

MRP has used their Trojan horse, Turitea, to slip through the back door. This type of sly behaviour was characteristic of MRP’s tactics for other aspects of the Turitea proposal, including the withholding of information, obfuscation, lies and misrepresentation, and does not engender confidence in MRP’s integrity, nor MRP’s claim to be community minded or good corporate citizens.

Finally, today is a red letter day for yet another reason. Kenderdine is *today* a key note speaker at the New Zealand Wind Energy Association conference in Hamilton. She will be addressing the attendees, who have coughed up \$1200 plus GST to attend, on how to place turbines as close as possible to human habitation. She will also chair a panel discussion and share her experiences and “achievements” at West Wind and Turitea. This is what the programme specifically states.

### **Shonagh Kenderdine (recently retired Environment Court Judge) – Community dynamics and consenting issues**

Shonagh Kenderdine’s experience includes hearing major wind farm consents. She will share her views on the consenting and community issues that need to be addressed to grow the number of wind farms in New Zealand, and some ideas on potential solutions.

### **Shonagh Kenderdine will also lead a panel debate on community and consenting issues.**

It’s comforting to know that the government has fully informed and openly involved the people of New Zealand in the proposal to turn very large areas of the lower North Island into wind farms, that the judiciary is absolutely beyond reproach, that the legal fraternity in respect of wind farm applications act pro bono, that all submissions both for and against Puketoī have been placed on the web for all to see, and that New Zealand is recognised as the world’s least corrupt country.

Paul Stichbury

