Comment on the fourth wind farm proposed at Turitea.

1. The first wind farm was opposed by a huge majority, but the Board gave MRP the opportunity to redesign its proposal. This second wind farm came under lengthy scrutiny with PNCC taking a “neutral” position, and resulted in the third wind farm approved in the Draft decision. We are now offering comment on the fourth wind farm, which, like the third wind farm, is, in fact two wind farms. This is bordering on a farce, but nonetheless, will make for hilarious reading about iterative processes in any book that may be written.

2. Like wind farms one to four, there have not been any meaningful photomontages supplied relevant to Greens Road, Kahuterawa Road or the Pahiatua Track, there has not been a K2 simulation available for the general public to view and there has only been a textual rather than a visual rendition of the massive infrastructure consisting of pylons, monopoles, and substations. There has been no revised noise report provided by MRP. The request to reinstate turbines, which had either been declined by the Board, or withdrawn voluntarily, will, in particular, make life intolerable for those who live at the southern end of the currently approved wind farm.

3. The issue of viability and sustainability is two sided. Has the viability and sustainability of the wind farm has been calculated by MRP? If so, this economic analysis has never been offered for public scrutiny. Since MRP is to be offered for sale after the election, this economic analysis must be revealed. If it is not, then a likely scenario is that astute investors will smell a rat as the wind farm is likely never to be built, but is simply a book keeping exercise to pump up the value of MRP as it approaches a sale. In that case the addition of a “not to be built wind farm” is, in my opinion, a fraud on investors, although quite in keeping with everything that has gone on to date. Secondly, there is the issue of the sustainability and viability of the community in the vicinity of the wind farm. Build the wind farm and that viability is gone forever.

4. According to the Minister the reason the wind farm was called in was NZ’s Kyoto obligations. The Guardian 1/6/2011 reported:

World Bank warns of 'failing' international carbon market
“The international market in carbon credits has suffered an almost total collapse, with only $1.5bn (£916m) of credits traded last year”

http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jun/01/world-bank-failing-carbon-markets

With carbon trading dead in the water and absolutely no prospect of renewing the Kyoto protocol, the economic modelling done by MRP has been turned on its head. The Minister’s rationale for calling in the wind farm has evaporated, i.e. to meet New Zealand’s commitments under Kyoto. This and many other issues are covered on www.palmerston-north.info. The website has received over 21,000 hits to date.

Note: Russia, Japan and Canada told the G8 in May they will not renew Kyoto, the US had already made this clear a few days earlier. Germany has announced plans to scrap all its nuclear power stations by 2020, replacing them with gas and coal will very likely bring an end to EU emissions trading, if it still survives in any form.
5. Did Mighty River Power cynically and deliberately asked for an extension of time, granted by the Board of course, to make sure that the NPS applied to their proposal? The tactic applied here has been to burn off all opposition. In my opinion this hearing has turned into a nightmare for opposing residents where the goal posts are being moved around by the applicant.

6. Both the Board and Mark Henry have pointed out that there will be adverse consequences for residents of Greens Road and Kahuterawa Road, but neglect the consequences for virtually all of the Pahiatua Track and Polson Hill. Frankly this is an announcement that RMA guidelines mean nothing and can be ignored at will. Of course numerous properties are on the market in all areas including “safe” Ngahere Park. Four properties adjacent to our former property at 309 are for sale, three of them for more than a year, but no takers. One owner has left his property and returned to the UK. If Mighty River Power is permitted to bleat about sustainability and viability, natural justice and fairness demands that the economic well being of residents must also be considered. There is ample evidence to show that property values and ability to sell are heavily influenced by wind farm proximity. Applicants claim this is not the case but completely refuse to buy up properties. If applicants’ claims are correct they would have no problem on-selling. Aspiring wind farmer, submitter 311, Neville Haack in his submission laments the fact that he has lost two turbines, 95 and 96 and as a result his property is virtually unsalable due to the turbines above him on Poff’s property and in the Reserve.

7. No mention has been made of the substantive issues I raised in the last round of submissions on the Draft Decision on wind farm three.
   - The wind farm has been approved right on the Wellington Fault Line.
   - The Mafia like contract between MRP and PNCC.
   - RMA guidelines ignored such as the safety, social, cultural and economic well-being of communities being maintained.

8. The Memorandum which gives Mighty River Power the prospect of approval of wind farm four and which flies in the face of all earlier representations by submitters, evidence from expert witnesses and the considered draft decision by the Board, ludicrously invokes the high moral tone of “natural justice and fairness” for the applicant.
   It just doesn’t get any lower than this.

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