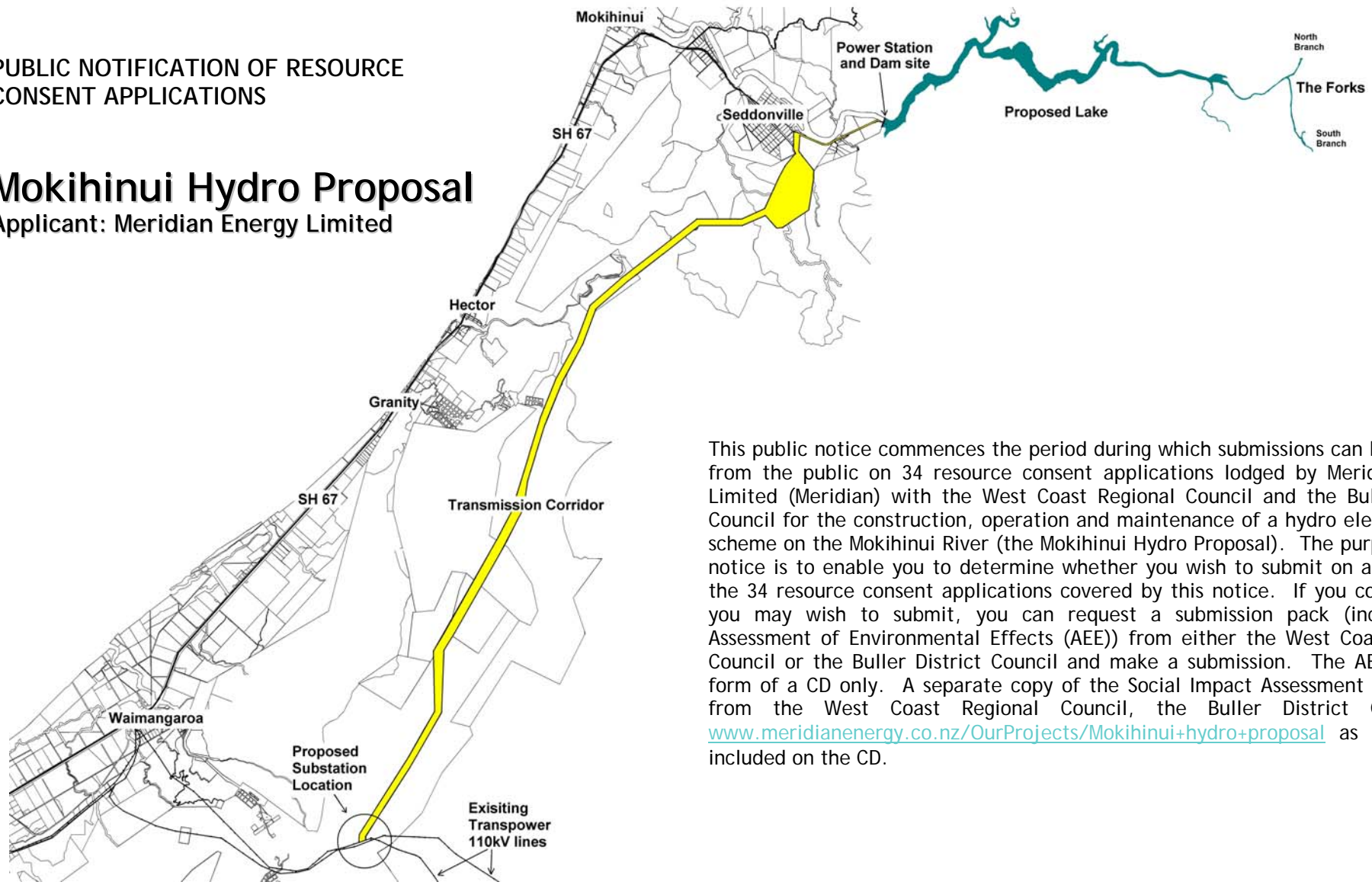


PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF RESOURCE
CONSENT APPLICATIONS

Mokihinui Hydro Proposal
Applicant: Meridian Energy Limited



This public notice commences the period during which submissions can be received from the public on 34 resource consent applications lodged by Meridian Energy Limited (Meridian) with the West Coast Regional Council and the Buller District Council for the construction, operation and maintenance of a hydro electric power scheme on the Mokihinui River (the Mokihinui Hydro Proposal). The purpose of this notice is to enable you to determine whether you wish to submit on any or all of the 34 resource consent applications covered by this notice. If you consider that you may wish to submit, you can request a submission pack (including the Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE)) from either the West Coast Regional Council or the Buller District Council and make a submission. The AEE is in the form of a CD only. A separate copy of the Social Impact Assessment is available from the West Coast Regional Council, the Buller District Council or www.meridianenergy.co.nz/OurProjects/Mokihinui+hydro+proposal as this is not included on the CD.

The Mokihinui Hydro Proposal includes a dam located on the Mokihinui River approximately 3 km upstream from the township of Seddonville and 11 km upstream from the river mouth, a new lake upstream of the dam extending to just below the Mokihinui Forks Ecological Area, a new transmission line to carry electricity from the power station to the existing Inangahua-Waimangaroa transmission line at Cedar Creek and a new substation at Cedar Creek.

The map attached shows the proposed location of the dam and associated facilities, the new lake and the transmission corridor.

Meridian has also applied for resource consents to enable the upgrade of the existing Mokihinui Seddonville Road from the intersection with State Highway 67 to the proposed construction site.

The notified resource consent applications include applications for land use consents, water permits and discharge permits relating to the following general activities associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the Mokihinui Hydro Proposal (a full list of all resource consent applications is contained in the submission pack):

- Constructing and maintaining a concrete gravity dam extending 300 m wide and 85 m above river level and an 85 MW power station approximately 3 km upstream of Seddonville;
- Damming the Mokihinui River and the creation of a new lake of approximately 337 ha in area behind the dam;
- Constructing and maintaining a 110 kV transmission line within an identified transmission corridor between the dam site and the existing Inangahua-Waimangaroa transmission line at Cedar Creek;
- Constructing and maintaining a new substation at Cedar Creek;
- Disturbing the bed of the Mokihinui River and tributaries and undertaking earthworks and vegetation clearance on the adjacent land to enable the construction, operation and maintenance of the dam and associated facilities, including diversion channel, coffer dams, penstocks, spillway, plunge pool, tailrace, powerhouse, substation,

transformers, construction staging area, temporary bridge, haul roads, permanent access roads, parking areas and log handling facilities;

- Taking, using, damming and diverting water from the Mokihinui River and groundwater to enable to construction of the dam and associated facilities;
- Taking and using water from the Mokihinui River to supply potable water and water for the construction and ongoing operation of the dam and associated facilities;
- Taking and using water from the Mokihinui River for hydro electricity generation purposes;
- Disturbing the bed of the Mokihinui River and tributaries and carrying out earthworks and vegetation clearance on adjacent land to establish, operate and maintain the new lake, including slope stabilisation structures;
- Disturbing the bed of the new lake and carrying out earthworks and vegetation clearance in order to construct, use and maintain new boat launching ramp and jetty facilities;
- Disturbing the beds of tributaries of the Mokihinui River and carrying out earthworks and vegetation clearance on adjacent land in order to construct and maintain a new access track on the true left bank of the Mokihinui River (to replace the existing pack track);
- Carrying out earthworks and vegetation clearance and disturbing the beds of tributaries of the Mokihinui River in order to upgrade the existing Mokihinui Seddonville Road from the intersection with State Highway 67 to the construction site including replacement and new bridges;
- Carrying out earthworks and vegetation clearance and disturbing the beds of the tributaries of a number of rivers in order to construct, operate and maintain the proposed transmission line, new substation and access tracks;
- Discharging construction storm water to water and land;
- Discharging plant process water, site drainage water and contaminants into the Mokihinui River via a treatment system;
- Discharging treated sewage into land from facilities located at the construction staging area and the new substation;

- Discharging contaminants into air during construction and maintenance activities (including dust and other emissions from plant).
- Erecting buildings which exceed bulk and height provisions within the staging area and the dam and to have a log boom on the surface of the lake;
- Various emissions related to the construction of the dam, earthworks and vegetation clearance, operation of the staging area and erection of transmission lines and substations, including noise, dust and lighting;
- The storage and use of hazardous substances at the dam site, the staging area and the substations.

The duration of the land use consents, water permits and discharge permits sought are provided in the consent application. Meridian Energy Limited seeks to extend the statutory lapsing period for all the resource consents to 10 years.

Full copies of the resource consent applications and all supporting information can be viewed at the following offices:

West Coast Regional Council
388 Main South Road
Greymouth

Buller District Council
6 Brougham St
Westport

Copies may also be viewed at the following locations:

Sue Thompson Memorial Library
87 Palmerston St
Westport
(9.30am to 5pm Monday-Friday,
10.30-1 Saturday)

Granity Community Library
Torea St
Granity
(Wed/Sun pms)

Seddonville Community Library
Pine St
Seddonville
(Wed pms)

Copies can also be found on the following website:

www.meridianenergy.co.nz/OurProjects/Mokihinui+hydro+proposal

If you would like to make a submission on these resource consent applications you can request a submission pack from Karen Glover at the West Coast Regional Council on 0508 800 118 or the Duty Planner at the Buller District Council on (03) 788 9112.

If you have any questions about the resource consent applications to the West Coast Regional Council, contact Grant Gillespie, RILEY Consultants Ltd, Christchurch, on (03) 379 4402. If you have any questions about the resource consent applications to the Buller District Council, contact Jane Bayley, Staig & Smith, Nelson on (03) 545 6883.

If you wish to make a submission on any of the resource consent applications, your submission must be in writing and signed. All submissions should be sent to the address below and must state:

a) The reasons for making the submission, the decision that you wish the Council to make (if known) and any general conditions that you seek;

b) Whether or not you wish to be heard in support of your submission and whether you support or oppose the applications;

c) Any other matters prescribed in the regulations made under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Submissions should be headed "Mokihinui Hydro Proposal" and must be received at the following address no later than 5pm on 23 April 2008.

Your submission should be sent to the address below.

Address: West Coast Regional Council
388 Main South Road
PO Box 66
Greymouth

A copy of your submission must also be sent to Meridian at the following address:

Address: Meridian Energy Limited
25 Sir William Pickering Drive
PO Box 2454
Christchurch
Attention: Chris Evans

Chris Ingle
Chief Executive Officer
West Coast Regional Council

Gary Murphy
Chief Executive Officer
Buller District Council