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22 APR 2008

SUBMISSION ON RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS

Section 96 Of The Resource Management Act 1991



THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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TO: THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

PO BOX 66

GREYMOUTH

Copy to:
Meridian Energy Limited
PO Box 2454,

Christchurch.

Applicant: Meridian Energy Ltd

Application Numbers: tick boxes overleaf

Closing Date for Submissions on the Mokihinui Hydro Proposal: (Wednesday 23 April 2008)

(Please print clearly) Title: Mr Mrs Miss Ms (Please circle the appropriate title(s) or write below)

My/Our Full Name(s): Brenda Joan Rainsbury & Robert Edward Rainsbury

Postal address: 12 Croftfield Place, Westmorland,

Christchurch 8025

Wk Ph: 03 377 2189

Hm Ph: 03 338-1938

Cell: 0276737728 or

0276737646

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Email: r.rainsbury@extra.co.nz

I/we support the application numbers ticked on the back of this form

(tick one)

~~I/we~~ oppose the application numbers ticked on the back of this form

The reasons for my/our submission are as follows (*further information attached (tick for yes)*)

[State in summary the nature of your submission, giving reasons]

We have concern regarding:

- The construction of the dam and flooding of upper reaches changing the nature of the river and its ecosystem.
- The resulting destruction to the habitat of endangered species.
- Estimations around sediment.
- Damaged caused to flora and fauna by erecting pylons
- Visual pollution
- Detrimental effect to the Charming Creek Walkways
- The effect on recreational activities in the area.

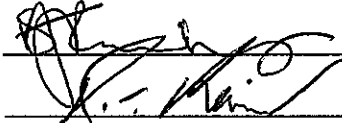
~~I/we~~ wish the consent authority to make the following decision [Give details, including the nature of any conditions]

Deny Resource Consent for the creation of the Mokihinui Hydro Proposal. The Department of Conservation needs total jurisdiction over this region of the West Coast.

Use the tick boxes below to indicate the resource consent applications your submission concerns.

~~I~~/we make ~~my~~/our submission concerning **all** the resource consent applications below (tick)
My/our submission **only** concerns the resource applications ticked below (tick)

I/we **wish to be heard** in support of my/our submission (tick one)
~~I~~/we **DO NOT** wish to be heard and hereby make my/our submission in writing only

Signature(s): 

Date: 18-04-08

If this is a joint submission by 2 or more individuals, each individual's signature is required)

I/we have served a copy of my/our submission on Meridian energy Limited as per Section 96(4) of the RMA (tick)

Consent List

Mokihinui River
consents RC07150/1 – RC07150/6

Earthworks and Vegetation
consents RC07150/14 – RC07150/19

Inundation Area
consents RC07150/7 – RC07150/8

General Construction
consents RC07150/20 – RC07150/23

Staging Area
consents RC07150/9 – RC07150/10

Access Roads, Walking Tracks and Recreational
Activities
consents RC07150/24 – RC07150/26

Substation and Transmission
consents RC07150/11 – RC07150/13

Submission on Resource Consent Application Mokihinui River RC07150

Once my husband and I lived upstairs from a very average looking young woman with the most spectacular mane of flowing auburn hair. It was the type of hair that the rich and famous expend a fortune on trying to emulate. This young woman was in her teens and therefore profoundly influenced by fashion. She did not appreciate her own attributes and followed slavishly the fashion of the time consequently cutting, perming and bleaching her hair. The result was a very plain and unexceptional image as she had destroyed her most redeeming feature.

West Coast towns are like this young woman; they are unexceptional and trade totally on the wild, stunning beauty of the environmental attractions that surround them. It is the beautiful environment that most visitors come to see not the unexceptional townships. The Mokihinui River is one of these attractions. The Mokihinui River is a legacy for future generations and Meridan Energy's philosophy of "leaving this country a better place for future generations" is misguided if they think future generations will prefer a man made lake to play on as opposed to the natural, rugged beauty that already exists.

If demand for electricity is growing by 2% each year (the equivalent to a city the size of Dunedin) then the increase is more than what our fragile environment can management and indicates that the human population is above it's carrying capacity in New Zealand. We cannot just keep damming rivers to satisfy the insatiable demands of a selfish generation.

Even within the dialog of the Mokihinui Hydro Proposal Report there is uncertainty, for example, "uncertainty around the river flow fluctuations down stream from the dam being within an environmentally sound range." The predictions that sediment build up will take 160-250 years are hypothetical and the estimations are wild and erratic. Estimates and approximations are not good enough, especially when the proposed lake will be so close to the Mokihinui Forks Ecological Reserve. However, it is certain that the local white baiters and those involved in outdoor pursuits will not be happy with estimates dictating the future of their recreation.

Regardless of the Mokihinui Hydro Proposal Report's assurances that the impact on wildlife will be minimal, we do not believe this and neither does the Royal Forest & Bird Society. New Zealand trades on its clean, green image but really our record of environmental disregard, over the last 200 years, is appalling compared to countries with human occupation for much longer. The people of this country cannot keep destroying the habit of our native and frequently endangered wildlife.

Just because something is out of sight does not make it less damaging to the environment. Meridan Energy believes that because the dam is not obvious it will not cause concern. They are talking in cosmetic terms but it is the ecosystem of a major river that is at stake here and if that dam goes ahead this river will be disrupted and changed forever.

Also there is the very major issue of the pylons and access roads. The Mokihinui 110KV Line Report makes light of the ensuing damage but where in New Zealand can you see pylons and no evidence of scars to the land? Constructing these pylons will incur enormous damage to the land and the wildlife e.g the Blue Duck & Kiwi. A 30 metre wide track gouged through virgin forest is not a small matter. **Rimu trees can take 300 years to reach full height and live for 800 – 1000 years.** The planned route through the Charming Creek/Ngkawau Gorge area (clause 1.2.5 & 1.2.6) is beyond comprehension. Does the Regional Council not understand the significance of this area? It is very popular with New Zealanders & international visitors alike. **Pylons are ugly and people do not want to see them.**

Our family have been visiting this area regularly since 1988 and we love its rugged, non-commercialised environment. We have met many New Zealanders and overseas visitors who have also been attracted to the region because of its natural, unspoiled beauty

Many New Zealanders appreciate and care about the region's natural attributes but we really need the Regional Council to protect and value our natural heritage also.

Brenda & Robert Rainsbury

18/04/08