

SUBMISSION ON RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS

Section 96 Of The Resource Management Act 1991



TO: THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
PO BOX 66
GREYMOUTH

Copy to:
Meridian Energy Limited
PO Box 2454,
Christchurch.



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
PH: 0508 8000 118
Fax: (03) 768 7133

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): SANDRA LINDSAY RINGGOLD

Postal address: 19 HAMPDEN STREET MURETISON
S. ISLAND

Wk Ph: _____ Hm Ph: _____ Cell: 021 106 7395
Wk Fax: _____ Hm Fax: _____ Email: SANDRARINGGOLD@YAHOO.CO

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]
THERE ARE FAR BETTER ALTERNATIVES TO RAPING NEW ZEALAND - eg, ENFORCING COMPULSORY INSULATION IN HOMES; INVESTING IN WIND TECHNOLOGY.
A DAM DOES NOT LAST FOREVER, WHEREAS A UNIQUE STUNNING ECOSYSTEM DOES. THE DAM IS THEREFORE NOT SUSTAINABLE
MERIDIAN ENERGY & THE BODIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED DAM SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DESTROY THE FUTURE OF NEW ZEALAND'S WILDERNESS & ECO-TOURISM.

I/we wish the consent authority to make the following decision [Give details, including the nature of any conditions]
WITHDRAW ANY PLANS FOR DAMS. THERE IS NO COMPENSATION / MITIGATION THAT CAN PRACTICALLY & MORALLY SUPPORT A DAM PROJECT.


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: 19/4/08

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

Inundation Area
consents RC07150/7 – RC07150/8

Staging Area
consents RC07150/9 – RC07150/10

Substation and Transmission
consents RC07150/11 – RC07150/13

Earthworks and Vegetation
consents RC07150/14 – RC07150/19

General Construction
consents RC07150/20 – RC07150/23

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

19 Hampden Street

Murchison

South Island

13th April 2008

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am opposed to the damming of The Mokihinui. Infact, I am opposed to damming, full-stop. I am really disappointed to have spent my life working in adventure tourism, specifically whitewater rafting, around the world, to finally decide on settling in New Zealand because I was under the impression that you had some great green, environmental policies in place. The words "eco-friendly" are branded around the world in your marketing strategy and yet you are happily building dams.

Imagine my sadness to find the same destructive policies I found when working in Uganda. As UK Manager of Adrift Whitewater Rafting, I laughed when I got a 'phone call from one of our guides telling me that the Head Guide was in prison for anti-dam campaigning. When I subsequently relocated from London to Uganda, I began to understand that it was no laughing matter. Infact far from it. I was banned by the minister of tourism and energy (a conflict, or what?!) from saying anything controversial on TV, although me and my big mouth did manage to slip it in subtly enough to avoid the prison for me.

I am hoping that in this country, although you seem to operate exactly the same way as The Minister of Energy and Tourism, you will at least differ in one respect and allow me to talk freely. I think it is important that you hear what river lovers and users have to say. I saw the dam being built in Jinja. I saw how happy the local chief was with his new mobile 'phone. Suddenly he was extoling the virtues of this ugly concrete monstrosity to all his people. How cheap was that? I wonder what the currency is in this country or was it just a mobile phone?

A rumour spread by the Ugandan government, informed the local farmers that when once their land was under water, had they planted cobs of corn on it, they would be able to reclaim loss of earnings. So guess what? All the stunning rainforest was suddenly chopped down. The bats fled as The Banks of The Nile looked as though they had been

raped. I was on that historic river every day a decade ago and was lucky to see it in its former glory.

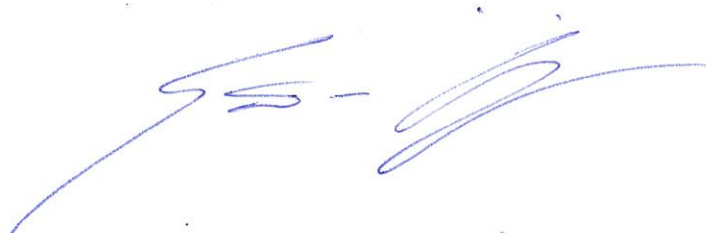
Oh, and another rumour that was successfully spread by the guy in charge of the energy company, was that he was going to be giving Ugandans electricity. I wonder if you are telling the same tale. I wonder if you shouldn't be concentrating on putting in double-glazing, improving wind-machines, insulation. I wonder a lot actually, based on watching and listening around the world. It turned out on this occasion that 99% of the electricity was going to be sold to Kenya.

Now, I had a choice of where to settle in the world. I was drawn to New Zealand because I love rivers and mountains. I am not an avid, expert in the outdoors, just a lover of the outdoors. I am disappointed that New Zealand promotes itself as a green land and yet at the same time is destroying its own beautiful wilderness.

As for tourism, should I try the argument I posed with the imposing Ugandan Minister of Tourism and Energy or would it fall on deaf ears? I have spent 20 years working in tourism and I do know the value, since it seems we are talking money here - a language that you might understand. SO if you would like to put a monetary value on tourism - green, accessible wilderness, then I believe you are barking up the wrong tree with your dams.

And how are the Kiwi workers going to benefit? I know the Chinese dam builders weren't very good at it. They had only built a football stadium in the past so they were asked to leave. Their legacy is in the form of the chinese restaurant in Jinja. Will you be left with an Italian restaurant or a Norwegian one?

Anyway I digress. My point is I have seen it all around the world. And dams have a limited shelf-life. What are your kids going to be looking at 100 years from now in New Zealand or will they, like myself, have fled to some other country to find peace and wilderness?



SARITA QINGW