

Turitea Wind Farm Community Liaison Group meeting

Date: 5.30pm, 4 July 2019
Venue: The Chalet, Palmerston North
PAGES: 3

1 Welcome

MARGARET KOUVELIS (Group Chair) welcomed the residents and stakeholders who were in the room, introduced the Mercury team and the contractors, and acknowledged the presence of Craig Auckram from Palmerston North City Council.

Only seven residents were in attendance, and Margaret reminded the meeting that the Group's purpose was to give the wind farm's 'neighbours' an opportunity to receive and discuss information about the wind farm and transmission construction. She commended these residents for taking up this opportunity.

In addition, she recommended that the residents study the plans and other documentation on Mercury's website and provide feedback via email.

2 Project update

DENNIS RADICH (Generation Development Manager) updated the meeting on project activity.

- Additional signs and bollards have been installed to improve the safety at the existing South Range Road entrance
- Design and planning is ongoing for the widening of the Pahiatua Aokautere Road at the point where South Range Road will be realigned to meet it. The design for this is currently with Council, and third week of July is targeted for the start of these works
- Wind farm design process is ongoing – a very large volume of technical information
- Mercury will soon open a small office in Palmerston (TSB building on Fitzherbert Avenue). Mercury team members will operate from this space, and it will serve as a useful base for internal or external meetings.

Looking forward (in a rough 'next eight weeks' timeframe):

- Realignment of South Range Road will be a priority along with building roads within the wind farm site as soon as construction begins (August)
- Construction site offices will be established at 856 Pahiatua Aokautere Road from late July through the first and second weeks of August.
- For the transmission line: procurement of poles, towers, insulators and fittings, forming of the transmission line access tracks, and Geotech testing, road condition survey and upgrade of Greens Rd

3 Construction Management Plans

MASON JACKSON (Consents & Compliance Manager) outlined the documents that have been, and will be, submitted to the Councils for approval, that set out how the wind farm construction and operation will comply with the Resource Consent conditions.

These documents will be put onto the Mercury website as they are prepared. They will be shared with the Community Liaison Group email distribution list. In many cases, there will be two documents for each type of plan, representing the separate approach and obligations of Vestas (the wind farm) and Electrix (the transmission infrastructure).



The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is the umbrella document including high level view of processes, environmental systems and objectives of the construction project.

Site Environmental Management Plans (SEMPs) are more specifically concerned with sediment and erosion controls.

Construction Traffic Management Plans detail the type, extent and timing of construction traffic activity and the things that will be undertaken to ensure a safe and efficient road network.

Construction Noise Management Plans set out procedures and methods to ensure the construction work will comply with the New Zealand Noise Standard (NZS6803).

The Landscape Plan (Vestas only) sets out how the construction work will be undertaken so as to ensure that earthwork areas and permanent buildings (substation and admin office building) will be integrated with the surrounding landform.

ACTION: MARGARET urged the Community Liaison Group to review these plans, in particular the Traffic Management Plans, and give feedback to Mercury by email.

MASON also noted that additional background noise monitoring will be installed at 16 Pineland Drive, following feedback received at last month's Community Liaison Group meeting.

4 Contractors' updates

4.1 Vestas (wind farm)

MORAN STARK (Vestas) spoke to slides 9-10 of the presentation, which showed pictures of similar Vestas projects in other parts of the world that illustrated the size and nature of the wind turbine construction. One image showed the Anchor Cage that will be at the base of each turbine. This structure is around 3.5m tall and 4.5m diameter, and contains around 36 tonnes of steel. Each anchor cage will be set in over 700 tonnes of concrete. Materials and parts will be brought in from Port of Napier (heavy equipment, generally transported direct to site) and Port of Wellington (containers of smaller components to a location in Palmerston North starting in August, from where it will be transported to the wind farm site as required).

Components are being procured by Vestas from multiple manufacturers in China and Europe.

Slide 10 showed an example of a Nacelle, weighing 70 tonnes without the gear box installed. In another image, a 55m long blade (15 tonnes) was shown being transported by road. With 99 blades in total for this part of the Turitea project (3 for each of the 33 turbines), this requires a major piece of traffic management.

MORAN confirmed that every part of the journey including corners and street furniture had been surveyed in preparation for transporting the components from Napier or Wellington to Palmerston North and site.

4.2 Electrix (transmission)

KEVIN SMALL (Electrix) told the meeting that Electrix is progressing design of 20 poles and 20 lattice towers to carry the transmission line from the wind farm. The poles will be anchored deeply in narrow holes 15-20m deep lined with steel cages. Poles and towers are being manufactured in China, and their design is the same as those used in many places by Transpower. Exact locations for poles and towers are being finalised, with Geotech bore holes being drilled to better understand the ground make-up for designing the foundations.

The majority of the poles and towers will be installed by crane via access tracks created across the site. Five in the Reserve will be flown in by helicopter to avoid damage to the ecosystem there.

The summer period from November to May is scheduled for installation of the transmission infrastructure.

A member of the meeting asked whether Kahuterawa Road would be surveyed in the same way as Greens Road. MASON confirmed that before and after surveys will be undertaken, but that the road was surveyed to establish its condition and maintenance, rather than current traffic volumes.

5 Follow-ups to previous meetings

MARGARET confirmed that a clear email invitation had gone out to everyone on the distribution list, along with a summary of last month's meeting. She asked people at the meeting to forward this to anyone who might be interested, and to encourage others to join the distribution list. The email included links to the Mercury website, including to the updated Terms of Reference.

MARK HENRY (Environmental Resources Manager) responded to a question from the previous meeting about engagement with iwi in the area. Mercury is in ongoing contact with Rangitaane o Manawatu and Rangitaane o Tamaki Nui a Rua and they



are happy with this way of engaging with us. MARGARET confirmed that she had heard positive feedback from members of Rangitaane o Manawatu.

MARGARET asked the group to consider the frequency of future meetings of the Group. So far there had been regular monthly meetings, and the next meeting was scheduled for 1 August. After construction begins in August, the Consent suggests quarterly meetings, so the next one would be November.

However, Mercury had suggested more frequent meetings, offering them every two months. This would mean meetings would take place in August, October and December this year.

The meeting agreed that the frequency of meetings would be influenced on the amount of activity taking place in the wind farm construction. DENNIS agreed that once construction begins, progress will be more visible.

ACTION: it was agreed that this summary would be sent out to the Community Liaison Group distribution list noting that a decision would be made at the August meeting regarding the timing of the next meeting.

MARGARET thanked the residents and guests for attending, and closed the meeting at 6.35pm.

