

Submission to the Electricity Commission
on
The Electricity Commission's Notice of Intention to approve
Transpower's GUP Proposal

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Putaruru

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I submit that along with many other citizens of this country I am passionately opposed to the Transpower proposal for a 220kV/400kV line from Whakamaru to Auckland. It would be prudent for the Electricity Commission to recognize that they should never approve a line that will not be able to be built. The opposition to this line is so strong that it actually reduces the security of supply into Auckland. How can line that is bitterly opposed by huge numbers of members of the public, that is proposed to be built over many kms in isolated parts of privately owned land ever be secure? It would also be prudent for the Electricity Commission to reflect on the successful closing of ranks in the rural community following the private release of the RHD virus several years ago. One could certainly expect a similar closing of ranks should accidental or other intentional occurrences cause the proposed Transpower line to fail. The Electricity Commission should therefore not approve any infrastructure development that cannot be built, for whatever reason, and passionate landowner opposition is a sufficient reason that this proposed line could never be successfully built and reliably commissioned.

It is not that I do not support sound alternatives to supply energy to Auckland It is clear that duplexing and reconductoring of the existing Whakamaru corridor lines would fully meet the projected demand growth. But the Electricity Commission has failed to thoroughly and independently assess this alternative.

While the Electricity Commission has tried unsuccessfully to convince the public that they have made decisions that are well informed, objective choices it is abundantly clear that the Commission is now a pawn in the hands of the Government. The Commissioner has denied being influenced by the Government but the very fact that the previous skilled and knowledgeable Commissioner lost his job is a very clear message from the Government. If the Electricity Commission is to redeem any confidence of the citizens of New Zealand it has only one choice available to it in its final decision, that choice must be to decline to approve the proposed Transpower 220/400kV grid upgrade proposal and send it back to Transpower for an equitable investigation of other Transmission alternatives.