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21 May 2009

Proposed Regional Policy Statement
Greater Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646
WELLINGTON 6142

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Proposed Regional Policy Statement

Thank you for notifying us of the above mentioned Proposed Regional Policy Statement.
Please find enclosed a submission from Vector Gas Limited.

If you have any queries regarding this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. McMillan".

Darryl McMillan
Land Management
darryl.mcmillan@vector.co.nz



**NOTICE OF SUBMISSION ON THE
PROPOSED REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR WELLINGTON REGION
PURSUANT TO CLAUSE 6 OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE OF THE RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**

To: Greater Wellington Regional Council
PO Box 11646
WELLINGTON 6142

Submission On: Proposed Regional Policy Statement

From: Vector Gas Limited

C/- Darryl McMillan

Address: Private Bag 2020
New Plymouth

I Introduction

- 1.1 This submission relates to the Proposed Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region.
- 1.2 Vector Gas Limited ("Vector") is the owner and operator of approximately 2500km of high pressure natural gas transmission pipelines. The below ground gas transmission pipelines deliver gas from production stations in Taranaki through to various towns and locations throughout the North Island. Within the Wellington Region Vector own and operate approximately 126km of high pressure gas transmission pipeline.

II Reasons for the submission

- 2.1 The High pressure transmission pipelines are required to meet the safety and operational requirements of the Health and Safety in Employment (Pipelines) Regulations 1999 and the operating code Standard NZ/AS2885 Pipelines – Gas and Liquid Petroleum (NZ/AS2885). Vector is required to ensure the protection and integrity of the pipeline is maintained to ensure the safety of the public, property, and the environment.
- 2.2 Third party interference is one of the main risks to the safety and integrity of the underground pipelines. Activities which may affect the gas pipelines should take into account the location and protection requirements of the pipelines. Activities in the vicinity of transmission gas pipeline should be carried out, as far as practicable, in such a way so as not to compromise the safe and efficient operation of the pipeline.
- 2.3 Vector generally supports Policy 7: Protecting regionally significant infrastructure – regional and district plans, of the Proposed Regional Policy Statement and commends the Regional Council for proposing such a Policy which specifically provides for the protection of regionally significant infrastructure. We do however recommend some minor amendments to Policy 7 and its explanation as detailed further in our submissions.

III Submission

- 3.1 Vector seeks:
 - (a) That the Proposed Regional Policy Statement be adopted subject to the specific amendments as sought below, or amendments which give effect to Vector's concerns as set out in this submission (to Vector's satisfaction); and
 - (b) Any other consequential amendments are made.

Submission

- 3.2 This submission relates to the Policy 7 of the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.
- 3.3 To ensure that incompatible land uses or activities are recognised, and that appropriate measures to ensure that any adverse effects on the operation or

protection requirements of regionally significant infrastructure are avoided or mitigated, Vector considers that the affected infrastructure utility operator/owner should be consulted with.

Relief Sought

3.4 Vector seeks:

Insert additional wording to Policy 7: Protecting regionally significant infrastructure – regional and district plans of the Proposed Regional Policy Statement to read:

The owners or operators of regionally significant infrastructure shall be consulted with when such infrastructure is affected by any proposed potentially incompatible land use or activity.

Submission

3.5 This submission relates to the explanation of Policy 7 of the Proposed Regional Policy Statement.

3.6 Vector suggests that some additional wording may be included in the explanation which provides for the necessary protection requirements of regionally significant infrastructure from incompatible land uses or activity. The protection of regionally significant infrastructure such as transmission gas pipelines not only provides an assurance for the continued supply of an important physical resource, but also provides a necessary level of safety, from any external interference.

Relief Sought

3.7 Vector seeks:

Amend the explanation section associated with Policy 7: Protecting regionally significant infrastructure – regional and district plans of the Proposed Regional Policy Statement to read:

.....Incompatible land uses or activities are those which adversely affect the efficient operation of infrastructure or restrict its ability to be maintained or sufficiently protected.

.....The Wellington Regional Council and city and district councils will need to ensure that activities provided for in a district or regional plan are compatible with the efficient operation, and maintenance and protection requirements of the infrastructure and any effects that may be associated with that infrastructure.

IV Vector does wish to be heard in support of this submission.

V If others make a similar submission, Vector would be prepared to consider presenting a joint case at any hearing.

Address for service:

Vector Gas Limited
Private Bag 2020
New Plymouth
Att: Darryl McMillan

Contacts:

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Dated.....^{21st}.....day of May 2009

Signed



Darryl McMillan
Land Management
Vector Gas Limited