

Response ID ANON-URZ4-5F1X-S

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications

Submitted on 2024-05-03 06:26:29

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2B

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:

Southern Generation Limited Partnership

2 Contact person

Contact person name:

Peter Mclean

3 What is your job title

Job title:

Pioneer Energy Ltd - General Manager Contracting

4 What is your contact email address?

Email:

s 9(2)(a)

5 What is your phone number?

Phone number:

s 9(2)(a)

6 What is your postal address?

Postal address:

s 9(2)(a)

7 Is your address for service different from your postal address?

No

Organisation:

Contact person:

Phone number:

Email address:

Job title:

Please enter your service address:

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

Aniwhenua Hydroscheme, Lake Aniwhenua. The dam is at the confluence of Rangitaiki River and Pokairoa Stream which has formed 'Lake Aniwhenua'. Pahekeheke Stream has also been dammed to form the Pahekeheke headpond.

File upload:
Legal Descriptions.pdf was uploaded

Upload file here:
No file uploaded

Do you have a current copy of the relevant Record(s) of Title?

No

upload file:
No file uploaded

Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

See above table.

Detail the nature of the applicant's legal interest (if any) in the land on which the project will occur

Please write your answer here:

See above – applicant is land owner. Southern Generation Partnership are a partnership between Pioneer Energy Limited, The Power Company Limited and Electricity Invercargill Limited.

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:
Aniwhenua Hydroscheme

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

Pioneer Energy Limited (Pioneer Energy) would like to renew all resource consents issued by Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) for the Aniwhenua Hydroscheme. This includes all activities and structures associated with the operation, use and maintenance of the Aniwhenua Hydroscheme. The renewal of the resource consents may include looking at opportunities for improving efficiencies of water flowing through the scheme.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

The purpose of the project is to continue to supply electricity supply to Horizon's distribution network in the Galatea and Kaingaroa regions. Any surplus electricity above local demand is exported to the Matahina Power Station where the two power stations combine to export electricity to the national grid. The objective of the project is to continue to deliver renewable energy, maintain electricity supply security, and where assessment shows it is achievable enhance operation efficiencies.

The activity involves damming at the confluence of the Rangitāiki River and Pokairoa Stream to form Lake Aniwhenua. Water from Lake Aniwhenua is diverted via the Pahekeheke Canal (sometimes referred to as the "headrace canal") to the Pahekeheke head pond. The Pahekeheke head pond dams water which is diverted from Lake Aniwhenua and also from the Pahekeheke Stream. Water is taken from the head pond and diverted via the penstocks to the powerhouse where electricity is generated. Water from the powerhouse is then discharged back into the Rangitāiki River downstream of the Aniwhenua falls. There is also a residual flow which is discharged from Lake Aniwhenua at the barrage (lake control gates) into the original course of the Rangitāiki River. The residual flow supplies Aniwhenua Falls.

Describe the staging of the project, including the nature and timing of the staging

Please write your answer here:

N/A

What are the details of the regime under which approval is being sought?

Please write your answer here:

RMA - Resource consent

If you seeking approval under the Resource Management Act, who are the relevant local authorities?

Please write your answer here:

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

What applications have you already made for approvals on the same or a similar project?

Please write your answer here:

None.

Is approval required for the project by someone other than the applicant?

No

Please explain your answer here:

N/A

If the approval(s) are granted, when do you anticipate construction activities will begin, and be completed?

Please write your answer here:

N/A. This application relates to the efficient consenting of existing infrastructure.

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

The Tangata Whenua for the project as advised by Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) include:

- Te Runanga o Ngāti Awa – kaitiki@ngatiawa.iwi.nz
- Te Runanga o Ngāti Manawa – receptionist@tronm.co.nz
- Ngāi Tūhoe) – korero@ngaituhoe.iwi.nz

We understand the following hapu are also likely to have an interest;

- Patuheuheu Ngāti Haka (hapū of Tūhoe).

Detail all consultation undertaken with the persons referred to above. Include a statement explaining how engagement has informed the project.

Please write your answer here:

On-going engagement has been undertaken with some stakeholders in relation to the hydroscheme. For example, Pioneer Energy engage with Ngati Manawa regarding fish passage improvements and tuna trap and transfer operations. Specific engagement for the consenting of the hydroscheme has not yet commenced, however Pioneer Energy are committed to wananga with key stakeholders for the consenting of the hydroscheme. This will be undertaken through whatever process Pioneer Energy end up submitting resource consent under.

Upload file here:

No file uploaded

Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the land or any part of the land on which the project will occur:

Please write your answer here:

N/A

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

What treaty settlements apply to the geographical location of the project?

Please write your answer here:

Ngati Manawa have a statutory acknowledgement over the Rangitaiki River above the dam.

Are there any Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 principles or provisions that are relevant to the project?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Are there any identified parcels of Māori land within the project area, marae, and identified wāhi tapu?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Is the project proposed on any land returned under a Treaty settlement or any identified Māori land described in the ineligibility criteria?

No

Has the applicant has secured the relevant landowners' consent?

Yes

Is the project proposed in any customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or aquaculture settlement area declared under s 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 or identified within an individual iwi settlement?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Has there been an assessment of any effects of the activity on the exercise of a protected customary right?

No

If yes, please explain:

Upload your assessment if necessary:

No file uploaded

Section 5: Adverse effects

What are the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment?

Please describe:

The infrastructure associated with the Aniwhenua hydro scheme is already in place and most impacts of the scheme took place as a result of the construction in the 1980's. Residual adverse effects relate to the damming of the Rangitaiki River and Pahekeheke Stream presenting a barrier to fish passage, and sedimentation near the inlet of the lake which has been attributed to the damming of the river and lake formation. The sediment delta (depositional zone for the upstream catchment of the river and its tributaries) may cause flooding of adjacent low-lying pastureland but conversely the scheme has created areas of wetland providing habitat to a wide range of fauna as well as providing a recreational resource. A high level commentary of potential environmental effects, values/matters of interest which have already been identified through on-going engagement with stakeholders, and potential management measures has been attached.

Upload file:

Potential env effects to be assessed and management.pdf was uploaded

Section 6: National policy statements and national environmental standards

What is the general assessment of the project in relation to any relevant national policy statement (including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) and national environmental standard?

Please write your answer here:

The renewal of the consent to operate the Aniwhenua Hydroscheme is consistent with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPSFM). The objective of the NPSFM is to ensure that natural and physical resources are managed in a way that prioritises first, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems, second the health needs of people, and third the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being, now and in the future. The NPSFM also lists some large hydroschemes and outlines that regard should be given to the importance of the listed schemes contribution to New Zealand's greenhouse gas emission targets, contribution to maintaining the security of New Zealand's electricity supply, and generation capacity, storage and operational flexibility. It also requires that consideration is given to hydro-electric power generation with regard to the Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) being suitable for hydro-electric power generation and that the water quality and quantity and the physical qualities of the FMU or part of the FMU, including hydraulic gradient and flow rate, can provide for hydro-electric power generation. Although not a large hydroscheme, the Aniwhenua hydroscheme can continue to provide for hydro-electric power generation and contribute to New Zealand's greenhouse gas emission targets whilst maintaining the water quality and quantity of the Rangitaiki River. The Aniwhenua hydroscheme is a run of the river scheme, and there is a very small level of storage associated with the operation of the scheme.

File upload:

No file uploaded

Section 7: Eligibility

Will access to the fast-track process enable the project to be processed in a more timely and cost-efficient way than under normal processes?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The project is considered likely to progress faster under the fast-track process given the technical elements of the project (being referred directly to an expert consenting panel is likely to be more efficient) and competing priorities of Councils technical staff meaning that processing resource consent applications under the standard process may not occur in a timely manner. In addition to this, consenting under the standard RMA process through Whakatane District Council would be subject to a hearing (including appointment of commissioners etc) and appeal period, this could significantly delay the project. The more confined and streamlined nature of the fast-track process would provide more certainty to Southern Generation Limited Partnership for long term investment into the hydroscheme, and free up time and resources within the company.

The time and cost for renewal of resource consents through the standard process can be significant for renewals of existing schemes and can have the potential to result in the overall reduction in the efficiency of existing schemes.

What is the impact referring this project will have on the efficient operation of the fast-track process?

Please write your answer here:

Detailed above.

Has the project been identified as a priority project in a:

Other

Please explain your answer here:

Listed as regionally significant infrastructure - see responses below.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Regional significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

The Aniwhenua hydroscheme contributes to maintaining electricity supply security and meeting greenhouse gas emission targets in New Zealand. As discussed above, the hydroscheme supplies electricity to Horizon's distribution network in the Galatea and Kaingaroa regions. Any surplus electricity above local demand is exported to the Matahina Power Station where the two power stations combine to export electricity to the national grid. The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment New Zealand's Energy Outlook 2013 noted that from 1990 to 2004, electricity demand increased rapidly, growing by over 2% per annum on average as a consequence of strong growth in the economy and population. The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment 'Energy in New Zealand 2022' summary showed that consumption peaked in 2019, however restrictions on activity and movement as part of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a dip in energy consumption in 2020, which have not yet returned to levels measured before COVID-19. There is however expected to be increased demand associated with electrification of process heat and the energy required to charge electric vehicles, and MBIE expects an increase in electricity demand from commercial and industrial sectors in the future. It is recognised that new electricity generation projects will need to be built, and existing electricity projects will need to continue to operate, and where possible improve efficiencies to cater for demand, particularly to meet the renewable electricity generation targets outlined below.

The importance of renewable electricity generation in helping New Zealand achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets is well recognised, with national direction around renewable electricity transmission currently being strengthened. The Government has a target of achieving 90 per cent of electricity from renewable sources by 2025. The Aniwhenua hydroscheme is therefore considered to be regionally significant infrastructure, it contributes to maintaining electricity supply security, supplies renewable electricity to the local area, and contributes to meeting New Zealand's renewable energy targets.

Facilities for the generation and/or transmission of electricity where it is supplied to the national electricity grid and/or the local distribution network are listed as regionally significant infrastructure under the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement.

Continued operation of existing generation infrastructure is critical to maintaining the overall level of electricity generation and the improved efficiency of that existing infrastructure is the most efficient way to contribute to the future generation needs.

Will the project:

Please explain your answer here:

No

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Continued operation of existing generation infrastructure is critical to maintaining the overall level of electricity generation and the improved efficiency to existing schemes is the most efficient way to contribute to the future generation needs.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

See above

Will the project support adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Aniwhenua hydroscheme is directly consistent with the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement which provides for the use and development of regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy. See section 2.3 Energy and Infrastructure which outlines the national and regional priority will be to continue to reduce the dependency on non renewable fuels and increase the development and use of renewable energy sources. Facilities for the generation and/or transmission of electricity where it is supplied to the national electricity grid and/or the local distribution network are listed as regionally significant infrastructure under the Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement. The Aniwhenua Hydroscheme is also consistent with the Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources plan which recognises hydroelectric electricity generation and its importance as a renewable energy resource in the allocation of water resources.

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

N/A

Does the project includes an activity which would make it ineligible?

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

Will the project be affected by climate change and natural hazards?

Yes

If yes, please explain:

Involves the damming of a river – however PIC assessments, the design of the dam and flood management/operational regime and levels of the lake address/mitigate this.

Section 9: Track record

Please add a summary of all compliance and/or enforcement actions taken against the applicant by any entity with enforcement powers under the Acts referred to in the Bill, and the outcome of those actions.

Please write your answer here:

No enforcement actions have been undertaken against Southern Generation Limited Partnership (SGLP) with regards to the Aniwhenua Hydroscheme. SGLP have largely been compliant with the resource consents for the Aniwhenua Hydroscheme with only minor non compliances in the past which SGLP have discussed with Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Load your file here:

No file uploaded

Declaration

Do you acknowledge your submission will be published on environment.govt.nz if required

Yes

By typing your name in the field below you are electronically signing this application form and certifying the information given in this application is true and correct.

Please write your name here:

Peter Mclean

Important notes