

ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT
National Electricity and Gas
Transmission

Overview

Parts of the nationwide electricity and gas transmission network are located within Waitomo district. These networks perform a critical function and are integral to the effective and efficient operation of New Zealand's economy as well as making a vital contribution to community health and safety. The provisions of this chapter manage activities near these networks.

How land is used within and adjacent to these corridors can significantly affect network operation, maintenance, and access. These networks can be sensitive to a range of actual and potential effects generated by adjacent activities. Conversely, locating some activities within close proximity to these corridors must be avoided to minimise risks to people's health and safety. There are three Sites or Areas of Significance to Māori and one site zoned Māori Purpose Zone that is on land within the identified corridors. Provisions have been added to this Chapter to ensure activities in these locations are not unintentionally restricted.

The National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 recognises the national significance of the electricity transmission system. It requires, to the extent possible, the management of adverse effects on the network from other activities. Although there is no national policy statement specific to the gas transmission network, this plan recognises these assets as having similar values, a similar linear extent and performing a similar function.

Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato - Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River 2010 is a significant document for part of the district. Reference to the Strategic directions sections of this plan is required in respect of this matter. Ko Tā Maniapoto Mahere Taiao Environmental Management Plan 2018 and Waikato-Tainui Environmental Management Plan 2013 also contain directions and outcomes to be achieved in respect of the provision of infrastructure. Applicants are directed to these documents when planning or undertaking works within the district.

Subdivision proximal to these networks is managed in the [subdivision chapter](#). The provisions of the [network utilities chapter](#) manage the operation, maintenance, replacement, upgrading and development of these assets.

Other relevant regulations

Additional regulatory requirements and approvals separate to this plan, are also relevant to network utilities, including:

1. Compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP) 34:2001 is mandatory under the Electricity Act 1992. All activities regulated by the NZECP, including any activities that are otherwise permitted by the plan, must comply with this code of practice.

Objectives

Refer also to the relevant objectives in Part 2 District-Wide Matters and Part 3 Area Specific Matters

- NEGT-O1.** The national significance and benefits of the national grid are recognised and provided for, and the national grid is protected from other activities.
- NEGT-O2.** The significance of the gas transmission network is recognised and protected from other activities.

Policies

Refer also to the relevant policies in Part 2 District-Wide Matters and Part 3 Area Specific Matters

- NEGT-P1.** Within the national grid yard avoid the establishment or expansion of transmission sensitive activities and buildings or structures used for these purposes in order to:
 1. Protect the national significance of the national grid; and
 2. Avoid the potential for reserve sensitivity effects on the national grid; and
 3. Reduce exposure to health and safety risks; and
 4. Ensure the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, repair, upgrading and development of the national grid is not compromised.
- NEGT-P2.** Manage activities, buildings, structures and earthworks for any other activity within the national grid yard to:
 1. Ensure the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, repair, upgrading or development of the national grid is not compromised; and
 2. Provide security of supply and/or integrity of national grid assets; and
 3. Maintain ongoing access to conductors and support structures for maintenance and upgrading works; and
 4. Manage all activities to avoid exposure to health and safety risks from the national grid; and
 5. Avoid potential for reverse sensitivity effects on the national grid.
- NEGT-P3.** Manage land use activities in proximity to the gas transmission network to:
 1. Provide security of supply and/or integrity of the gas transmission network; and
 2. Avoid potential exposure to health and safety risks from the gas transmission network; and
 3. Maintain ongoing access for maintenance, repair and upgrading works; and
 4. Reduce the potential for reverse sensitivity effects.

- NEGT-P4.** New residential activities and transmission sensitive activities must be appropriately located and setback from the gas transmission network.
- NEGT-P5.** Maintain the integrity and stability of the gas transmission network by managing earthworks, including the planting of trees, in proximity to the gas transmission network.
- NEGT-P6.** Manage the use of explosives in proximity to the gas transmission network and hazardous substances in proximity to the national grid yard, in order to avoid the potential for high-risk events which would impact people’s health and safety, cause property damage and disruption to supply.

Rules

The rules in NEG T - Table 1 apply within the national grid yard and within specified distances from the gas transmission pipelines and network. To undertake any activity, it must comply with all the rules listed in:

- NEG T - Table 1 - Activities Rules; and
- Any relevant provision in Part 2 District-Wide Matters; and
- Any relevant provision in Part 3 Area Specific Matters.

Where an activity breaches more than one rule, the most restrictive status shall apply to the activity.

[Refer to Part 1 - How the Plan Works](#) for an explanation of how to use this plan, including activity status abbreviations.

NEGT - Table 1 - Activities Rules

<p>Unless specifically stated otherwise, the rules in this table apply to all zones, precincts, all roads and new roads approved by resource consent</p> <p>Rules NEG T-R1 to NEG T-R4 apply to the national grid yard</p> <p>Rules NEG T-R5 to NEG T-R9 apply to the gas transmission network</p>	
NEGT-R1.	Earthworks, vertical holes or land disturbance within the national grid yard
<p>Activity status: PER</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>1. Earthworks, vertical holes or land disturbance within the national grid yard must not:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(i) Exceed 300 mm depth within 6m of the outer edge of the visible foundation of any national grid support structure; and</p>	<p>Activity status where compliance is not achieved: NC</p>

- (ii) Exceed 3 m depth where located between 6m and 12 m of the outer edge of the visible foundation of any national grid support structure; and
- (iii) Compromise the stability of any national grid support structure; and
- (iv) Permanently physically impede existing vehicular access to any national grid support structure; and
- (v) Result in a reduction of the existing ground to conductor clearances as required in Table 4 of the NZECP;

AND

2. NEGT-R1(i) and (ii) do not apply to the following earthworks, vertical holes or land disturbance:
 - (i) Earthworks undertaken by a network utility operator (other than for the reticulation and storage of water for irrigation purposes). See the [network utilities chapter](#) for earthwork provisions; and
 - (ii) Earthworks undertaken for cultivation or repair or sealing of a road, pedestrian accessways, walkways, cycleways, driveways or farm tracks; and
 - (iii) Vertical holes not exceeding 500 mm in diameter that are located at least 1.5 m from the outer edge of a National Grid pole or stay wire, or are a post hole for a farm fence or horticulture structure more than 6 m from the visible outer edge of a National Grid tower foundation; or
 - (iv) Earthworks subject to a dispensation from Transpower New Zealand Limited under the NZECP.

Nothing in this rule shall limit Māori cultural and customary uses and burials in sites or areas of significance to Māori or in the Māori purpose zones identified on the planning maps.

Note: This rule prevails over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017.

Note: Transpower New Zealand Ltd will be considered an affected party in accordance with section 95E of the Act.

Activity status: PER

Where:

1. The following building and structures are permitted within the national grid yard:
 - (i) Non-habitable buildings or structures for farming activities (excluding intensive indoor primary production, commercial greenhouses, milking sheds and buildings storing hazardous substances); and
 - (ii) Ancillary stockyards and platforms, including those associated with milking sheds; and
 - (iii) Artificial screens and fences no more than 2.5 m in height as measured from ground level, where these are located at least 5 m from the outer visible edge of any national grid support structure; and
 - (iv) Artificial crop protection structures or crop support structures not exceeding 2.5 m in height where located at least 8m from a national grid transmission line pole that:
 - i. Is removable or temporary to allow a clear working space of 12 m; and
 - ii. Allows all weather access to the pole and a sufficient area for maintenance equipment including a crane; and
 - (v) Where undertaken by a network utility operator, infrastructure (other than for the reticulation and storage of water for irrigation purposes) or any part of electricity infrastructure that connects to the national grid. See the [network utilities chapter](#);

AND

2. All buildings and structures listed in NEG-T-R2.1 must comply with the following:
 - (i) Except for NEG-T-R2.1 (iii), (iv) and (v), no building or structure must be located closer than 12 m from the outer visible foundation of any national grid support structure); and
 - (ii) No building or structure may permanently physically impede existing vehicular access to any national grid support structure; and
 - (iii) All buildings and structures must comply with the NZECP under all National Grid transmission line operating conditions.

Activity status where

compliance is not achieved: NC

<p>AND</p> <p>3. For the avoidance of doubt, any building or structure used for the handling or storage of Class 1-4 hazardous substances (Hazardous Substances (Hazard Classification) Notice 2020 Regulations 2001) with explosive or flammable intrinsic properties is a non-complying activity, except this does not apply to the accessory use and storage of hazardous substances in domestic-scale quantities.</p> <p><i>Note: Transpower New Zealand Ltd will be considered an affected party in accordance with section 95E of the Act.</i></p> <p><i>Note: NZECP is mandatory under the Electricity Act 1992. All activities regulated by NZECP, including buildings, structures, earthworks and the operation of mobile plant, must comply with that regulation. Activities should be checked for compliance even if they are permitted by the Plan.</i></p>	
<p>NEGT-R3. New transmission sensitive activities including the erection or relocation of buildings for transmission sensitive activities</p>	
<p>Activity status: NC</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>1. The following activities propose to locate within the national grid yard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Establishment of a transmission sensitive activity in an existing or new building or structure; or (ii) Construction of a new building or relocation of a building to accommodate a transmission sensitive activity; or (iii) Any change of land use to a transmission sensitive activity; or (iv) Additions or alterations to an existing building or structure for a sensitive activity that involves an increase in the building or structure height or footprint. <p><i>Note: Transpower New Zealand Ltd will be considered an affected party in accordance with section 95E of the Act.</i></p> <p><i>Note: NZECP is mandatory under the Electricity Act 1992. All activities regulated by NZECP, including buildings, structures, earthworks and the operation of mobile plant, must comply with that regulation. Activities should be checked for compliance even if they are permitted by the Plan.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Vegetation to be planted around the National Grid should be selected and/or managed to ensure that it will not</i></p>	<p>Activity status where compliance is not achieved: N/A</p>

<p><i>result in that vegetation breaching the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.</i></p>	
<p>NEGT-R4.</p>	<p>Quarrying activities</p>
<p>Activity status: PR</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>1. The activity is a quarrying activity, farm quarrying or forestry quarrying within the national grid yard.</p> <p><i>Note: This rule prevails over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017.</i></p>	<p>Activity status where compliance is not achieved: N/A</p>
<p>NEGT-R5.</p>	<p>Earthworks within 20 m of the gas transmission network</p>
<p>Activity Status: PER</p> <p>Where:</p> <p>1. The earthworks are within 20 m of the gas transmission network and do not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A change to the ground contour or ground level; or (ii) The planting of trees within 10 m of the gas transmission pipeline; or (iii) Soil loading over the gas transmission pipeline; or (iv) The use of heavy vehicle or machinery, except where required to undertake cultivation; <p>AND</p> <p>2. This rule does not apply to cultivation and domestic gardening (except for the planting of trees); and</p> <p>3. A minimum of five working days prior to the commencement of earthworks, written advice of the work must be provided to the gas transmission pipeline owner and operator.</p> <p>Nothing in this rule shall limit Māori cultural and customary uses and burials in Sites or Areas of Significance to Māori or in the Māori purpose zones identified on the planning maps.</p> <p><i>Note: This rule prevails over the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017.</i></p> <p><i>Note: First Gas Ltd will be considered an affected party in accordance with section 95E of the Act.</i></p> <p><i>Note: For any works within a gas pipeline easement area, a Pipeline Easement Permit must be obtained.</i></p>	<p>Activity status where compliance is not achieved: RDIS</p> <p>Matters over which discretion is restricted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Measures taken during earthworks to maintain slope stability or prevent exacerbation of any pre-existing deep-seated land instability; and (b) The risks of hazards affecting public or individual safety and the risk of property damage; and (c) Measures proposed to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects on the gas transmission network; and (d) Technical advice provided by the owner and operator of the gas transmission network, including on the assessment of risk; and (e) The outcome of any consultation with the owner and operator of the gas transmission network.

NEGT-R6.	New residential activities located within 20 m of any gas transmission pipeline at a gauge pressure exceeding 2,000 kilopascals
NEGT-R7.	New residential activities located within 60 m of any above ground structure associated with the gas transmission network
NEGT-R8.	New transmission sensitive activities (other than provided for in NEGT-R6 and NEGT-R7) located within 60 m of the gas transmission network

Activity status: RDIS

Where:

1. No activity or structure may permanently physically or legally impede existing access to the gas transmission pipeline and/or the gas transmission network.

Matters over which discretion is restricted:

- (a) The extent to which the proposed activities are likely to compromise the stability or integrity of the gas transmission network and/or the gas transmission pipeline and their operation, maintenance and upgrading; and
- (b) The risks of hazards affecting public or individual safety and the risk of property damage; and
- (c) Measures proposed to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects on the gas transmission pipeline or network; and
- (d) Within the Māori purpose zone, the positive benefits for Māori from the use and development of land; and
- (e) Technical advice provided by the owner and operator of the gas transmission network, including on the assessment of risk; and
- (f) The outcome of any consultation with the owner and operator of the gas transmission network; and
- (g) Whether the activity could be located at a greater distance from the gas transmission network.

Activity status where compliance is not achieved: DIS

Note: First Gas Ltd will be considered an affected party in accordance with section 95E of the Act.

Note: Above ground structures associated with the gas transmission network may include sales gates, scraper stations, compressor stations, MVLs and offtakes.

Activity Status: RDIS**Matters over which discretion is restricted:**

- (a) The extent to which the proposed activities are likely to compromise the stability or integrity of the gas transmission network and/or the gas transmission pipeline and their operation, maintenance and upgrading; and
- (b) The risks of hazards affecting public or individual safety and the risk of property damage; and
- (c) Measures proposed to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects on the gas transmission pipeline and/or the gas transmission network; and
- (d) Technical advice provided by the owner and operator of the gas transmission network, including on the assessment of risk; and
- (e) The outcome of any consultation with the owner and operator of the gas transmission network and/or gas transmission pipeline; and
- (f) Whether the use of explosives could be located a greater distance from the gas transmission pipeline and/or gas transmission network.

Note: First Gas Ltd will be considered an affected party in accordance with section 95E of the Act.

NEG-T - Table 2 - Performance Standards

There are no Performance Standards