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Submission on the Proposed Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement

Bay of Plenty Regional Council
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On behalf of the New Zealand Geothermal Association

8 February 2011

The New Zealand Geothermal Association (NZGA) would like to congratulate Bay of Plenty Regional Council for their continued development of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

The NZGA is an independent, non-profit association that provides information on geothermal phenomena and utilisation for industry, government and educational organisations. In addition, the NZGA, as a member of the International Geothermal Association, contributes to the international exchange of information within the geothermal development industry. NZGA membership comprises participants, regulators, and interested parties within the geothermal community. It totals 315 members currently.

The NZGA has previously provided detailed comments on the draft RPS focussed on the geothermal provisions, and we hold to those comments made on 1 April 2010.

We note that in 2010 Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Environment Waikato signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly manage the Taupo Volcanic Zone geothermal resources, including greater alignment of geothermal policies and plans, sharing of staff and other in-house resources, and cooperation in environmental monitoring. Given that both organisations are revising their RPSs and are receiving comments this month, it would have been an ideal time for the two Councils to align their primary documents with respect to geothermal resources.

We do point out that there has been a huge input by industry and public in the operative Environment Waikato RPS so there would have been great benefit and efficiency in drawing from that document.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B R" followed by a long horizontal line.

Brian White
Executive Officer
New Zealand Geothermal Association