

Project Martha – November 2018

My name is Glenis Gentil. I am a co-owner, along with my husband Brian Gentil of Gold FM, a family owned and operated radio network. Our studios and offices are based in the Dorsel Building, which is located on the corner of Hazzard and Seddon Street in Waihi's CBD.

We have transmitters at Waihi, Waihi Beach, Paeroa, Thames, Whitianga and Coromandel and broadcast our programme to these locations from our Waihi on air studio.

I attended the resource consent hearing for Project Martha just in time to hear Mr Heilig's presentation on Tuesday before lunch. I also received a copy of his written statement and would like to clarify some information.

Mr Heilig met with myself on Tuesday, November the 6<sup>th</sup> - not 'the Gentil's' as Brian was working in the studio at the time. At that meeting Mr Heilig confirmed to me that Gold FM is a sensitive receiver and that the proposed project had more potential to adversely affect our business than others in the area.

The suggestion to this hearing that any noise from blasting would be minor and not considered to impact on our broadcast quality is in contrast to the evidence Mr Heilig gave in relation to an Auckland based radio/television network, where the implications of regenerated noise on broadcast studios due to vibration were highlighted.

Mr Heilig said on Tuesday that our studio houses electronic equipment (computers and transmitters), which it does. It also houses audio processors, on air broadcast mixing desks, directional microphones, phone systems, computers and other technical electronic equipment necessary to transmit our on air programme to our studio transmitter locally and other transmitter locations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Gold FM requires a quiet vibration free environment to carry on its business. Broadcast microphones are very sensitive and pick up background noise very easily.

Regenerated noise from vibration can induce deflections on surfaces like walls, floors, ceilings - emitting a pulse as an audio sound wave, according to Mr Heiligs evidence, where he represented a broadcast network as an expert witness and noted that even deflections measuring only tens of microns can generate disturbing levels of noise, which depending on the source can be heard as a low frequency hum or constant chatter. (July 2013)

While the situations between that broadcast network and ours differ there are factors related to vibration levels and regenerated noise that apply to all broadcast studios.

(Unfavourable impacts from regenerated noise are possible where vibration levels approach 0.1 mm/s.)

Tunnelling construction and production blasting causing low level vibration may have minimal effect on a retail outlet for example but disruption to a broadcast studio needing to broadcast 24/7 can be significant.

(International standards suggest the level of regenerated noise for a broadcast studio should be kept below 25dBA or vibration levels less than 0.06mm/s.)

Electronic equipment has a lower permissible limit of vibration than buildings and is also much easier to damage. Our business depends on electronic equipment to operate.

We have aerials attached to our roof which are imperative for broadcast purposes. Additional stress and movement of the structure and aerial attachments due to vibration are worth noting along with damage that can be caused to studio equipment and computers due to dust which will increase when work in the Martha Pit and layback commence.

The increasing height of the tailings impoundment out near Baxter Road has increased our awareness that we need to consider line of sight interference between our Waihi to Waihi Beach aerals.

We enjoy a good relationship with OceanaGold and its staff and it was as a result of discussions that it was suggested that we make a submission.

We have worked together on community projects and don't doubt their commitment to address concerns brought to their attention.

We believe it's important we respond to Mr Heilig's submission that effects on Gold FM would be no more than minor so that our concerns are not misrepresented.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you.

Glenis Gentil

Gold FM