Dear Project Participant

You are being asked to take part in an interview for a research study. The project is investigating the debate around policy reform in New Zealand’s electricity sector, using NZ Power as a case study.

**Purpose of Study:**

The primary aim of the study is:

> To investigate key drivers behind policy reform in the New Zealand electricity sector over the past 15 years; specifically (1) the social, economic and environmental concerns, (2) specific stakeholders with particular influence over policy development, (3) the role of the media in framing debate over policy change. Drivers behind the NZ Power policy proposal will be examined as a recent case-study of reform.

This interview is one part of the study; the other part is an analysis of existing literature. The study is seeking informed views from a range of politicians, policy advisers, industry players, and media representatives.

**Use of results from the interviews:**

The results collected will be reported in papers submitted for publication in academic journals and presented at conferences. The overall findings will form part of a Master’s thesis that will be submitted for assessment.

**What is involved if you agree to participate in this study?**

- You will be asked to respond to various questions relating to the theme of this research;
- You will have an opportunity to provide additional comment;
- Your involvement will be around forty five (45) minutes to an hour maximum.

**Time and location of interviews:**

It is expected that the interviews will take place in late September or October of 2014 in Wellington, New Zealand. The location would be your office or an interview room at Victoria University of Wellington.

**Privacy and confidentiality:**

If you wish, your comments will be treated as confidential, i.e. your comments will not be identified by name.

**Right of withdrawal:**

You will have the right to refuse to answer any question, and to withdraw any information you have supplied within three weeks of completing the interview.

**Provision of feedback:**
You have the right to ask to check the draft thesis if your comments are included in it, and you will be able to provide any corrections within two weeks of receiving this.

**Ethics approval:**

The Victoria University of Wellington Human Ethics Committee has granted ethical approval for this research.

**Other points:**

Questions to be asked during the interview will be provided to you one (1) week before the date of the interview, so that you have the opportunity to consider the questions and their implications.

Any data collected for this research will be destroyed within five (5) years of completion of the study.

If you would like any further information about this research before you agree to participate, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to working with you.

Kind regards

Daniel Wilson