



AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Consultation Report – Appendix 1.2B Section
35 Direction from SoS - Letter and Briefing
Note to Onshore Stakeholders 17 August
2018

The Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations
2009 – Regulation 5(2)(q)

Document Ref: 5.1.2B

PINS Ref.: EN020022

AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Consultation Report – Appendix 1.2B Section
35 Direction from SoS – Letter and Briefing
Note to Onshore Stakeholders 17 August
2018

PINS REF.: EN020022

DOCUMENT: 5.1.2B

DATE: 14 NOVEMBER 2019

WSP

WSP House

70 Chancery Lane

London

WC2A 1AF

+44 20 7314 5000

www.wsp.com

AQUIND Interconnector to be considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ('BEIS') has today (Monday 30th July 2018) announced that AQUIND Interconnector is to be treated as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project.

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, issued the direction for AQUIND Interconnector – a new subsea and underground High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electric power transmission link between the South Coast of England and Normandy in France – to be treated as development for which development consent is required.

To build the project, AQUIND will apply to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under the Planning Act 2008.

AQUIND has said that it anticipates an application for development consent will be submitted in 2019, after it has carried out further technical studies together with pre-application consultation with the local community, affected landowners and other relevant stakeholders.

Once submitted, the Planning Inspectorate will examine AQUIND's DCO application before the Secretary of State makes a decision on whether authorisation should be given for the project.

Responding to the news, a spokesperson for AQUIND said:

"The DCO planning process is well-suited to the development of AQUIND Interconnector given the project's potential to deliver significant national benefits for Great Britain, including more competition in energy markets, lower carbon dioxide emissions, greater integration of renewable energy sources and greater security of supply. It can also provide valuable ancillary services to the electric power grid.

"AQUIND would like to stress that the key parameters of the proposal remain unchanged, irrespective of the consenting regime – the onshore cable will be fully underground, whilst the converter station will remain as the only planned visible element.

"It is important to AQUIND that its scheme is shaped by local feedback. The development consent process places significant weight on the role of pre-application consultation, which will ensure all relevant stakeholders remain involved throughout the consultation process.

"Having built on the feedback received during our consultation in early 2018, AQUIND is looking forward to continued engagement with the local community and all relevant stakeholders in shaping the proposals."

Earlier in 2018, AQUIND Interconnector was awarded Project of Common Interest (PCI) status by the European Commission. PCIs are key European energy infrastructure projects that address the three challenges of the European energy policy: affordability, security of supply and decarbonisation.

Further information about AQUIND Interconnector is available at www.aquind.co.uk and www.aquindconsultation.co.uk.

- ENDS -

For more information, please contact:

Ally Kennedy
Ally.Kennedy@becg.com
020 3697 7636

Notes to editors:

AQUIND Interconnector is a proposed High Voltage Direct Current ('HVDC') subsea and underground electric power transmission link between the south of England and Normandy in France, with the

capacity to transmit up to 2,000 MW of electricity between the France and Great Britain ('GB') net of transmission losses.

It is estimated that AQUIND Interconnector will have sufficient capacity to transmit up to 16,000,000 MWh of electricity annually between GB and France, accounting for approximately 5% and 3% of their respective total electricity consumption and enough to keep the lights on in up to four million British households.

AQUIND Interconnector will make a significant contribution to improving GB's security of electricity supply and achieving greater affordability by improving competition, making the GB energy market more efficient and enabling greater energy flexibility. This should ultimately benefit consumers via increased access to lower prices due to competitive pressures on domestic energy generators.

AQUIND Interconnector will help to integrate a greater proportion of nonfossil fuel energy sources and intermittent renewables generation into the GB energy mix. It is also expected that electricity imported from France will have much lower CO2 intensity. This will reduce reliance on fossil fuel power generation plants and in turn reduce GB's CO2 emissions from the burning of such fuels. AQUIND Interconnector will therefore make a significant contribution to the decarbonisation of the GB electricity grid and meeting the net UK carbon reduction targets by the year 2050, set in accordance with Section 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008.

The project is being developed and promoted by AQUIND Limited, a UK-registered company with the sole business of developing AQUIND Interconnector. AQUIND is not associated with any UK or European utilities or national electricity transmission system operators. AQUIND Interconnector is being developed as a private project without government subsidies.

More information about the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Act 2008 is available online at <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on **0303 444 5000**.

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR: A NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Overview

This briefing note provides more information on the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and what the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's decision to issue a direction for AQUIND Interconnector to be treated as an NSIP means for the development of the project.

What are Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects?

NSIPs are large scale developments in the fields of energy, transport, water, or waste which require a type of consent known as "development consent".

How does the planning process for NSIPs work?

The Planning Act 2008 requires developers of NSIPs to apply to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

The Planning Inspectorate acts as the examining authority on behalf of the Secretary of State and examines applications for a DCO. The Planning Inspectorate seeks the public's views on the application and then submits its recommendation to the Secretary of State, who makes the final decision. The Secretary of State will make their decision in accordance with applicable national policy, taking into account the local impact of the proposals.

What role do local authorities have in the NSIP process?

Host local authorities have an important role to play in the development of NSIPs and AQUIND will be engaging with relevant local authorities throughout the process.

During the pre-application stage, local authorities are consulted on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment to be undertaken, how the local community will be consulted and on the project proposals.

During the examination stage local authorities may provide representations on the local impact of the proposals and any other matters considered appropriate to the examining authority. The examining authority may seek written responses on matters concerning the proposals from the local authority and may also invite representatives of the local authorities to attend hearings on particular topics.

If development consent is granted, local authorities are typically responsible for discharging and monitoring many of the requirements (e.g. planning conditions) associated with an NSIP in their area.



How will AQUIND consult on its NSIP?

Consultation is an important part of the NSIP process. NSIP developers are required to publicise their proposals widely and consult with the local community, local authorities, statutory bodies and persons with an interest in land potentially affected by the proposed development.

Before accepting the application for examination on behalf of the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate must be satisfied that adequate pre-application consultation has been conducted.

Consultation with the local community

Before formal consultation with the local community on AQUIND's proposed NSIP can begin, AQUIND is required to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult people living in the vicinity of the land affected by the project. This statement is commonly known as a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC').

AQUIND will share a draft Statement of Community Consultation with local authorities for informal discussion and comment in the near future.

Following this period of informal discussion, AQUIND will then share a draft Statement of Community Consultation with the host local authorities who have 28 days in which to respond formally.

Having had regard to any responses provided by the local authorities, AQUIND will publish the Statement of Community Consultation and make it available to view

for local people living in the vicinity of the land affected by the project.

Formal consultation must then be carried out in accordance with the final Statement of Community Consultation.

All comments submitted during the consultation will be recorded and carefully considered by AQUIND and will be taken into account when further developing the proposal.

An explanation of how the comments received have been taken into account will be detailed in the Consultation Report to accompany the DCO application.

AQUIND's formal consultation with the local community will build on the informal consultation undertaken in January 2018.

The feedback received in relation to the informal consultation has informed the evolution of the proposals and the scope of the technical assessments.

More information

More information on the project timeline will be provided in due course. An application for a DCO is expected to be submitted in 2019.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact AQUIND's community engagement team on freephone **01962 893 869** or via email at aquindconsultation@becg.com.



