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All Interested Parties, Statutory Parties
and Other Persons

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020022

Date: 26 March 2020

Dear Sir/ Madam

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rules 6 and 9

Application by AQUIND Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the AQUIND Interconnector Project

Notice of a Procedural Decision to Postpone Preliminary Meeting

I am writing to you following our letter of 5 March 2020 (the Rule 6 Letter)¹ which provided notification of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) for this Examination. Given the Government advice on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, this is the Examining Authority's (ExA's) **procedural decision to postpone the PM** in order to avoid non-essential travel and large gatherings. The PM that was scheduled to be held on 22 April 2020 at the Village Hotel in Cosham, Portsmouth will now not take place on that day.

Please note that this is a decision to postpone rather than cancel this event. The ExA remains appointed and we are now reviewing all Examination procedures. I will write to you again with further procedural proposals for the Examination, once that work is complete.

In this respect however, I would like to emphasise that the ExA's procedural decision in Annex E of the Rule 6 Letter seeking the preparation of Statements of Common Ground remains in effect. We urge the Applicant and Interested Parties to press ahead with the work necessary to prepare these statements, using remote and digital communication and working methods to replace meetings as required. There are also other tasks that the ExA strongly encourages the Applicant and Interested Parties to continue in preparation for the re-arranged PM, including those listed in **Annex A** of this letter.

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN020022/EN020022-001100-AQUI%20-%20Final%20Rule%206.pdf>

I would also like to emphasise that we will continue our preparation of Written Questions and arrangements for the PM and, when Government rules and Planning Inspectorate policy permit, consider further Unaccompanied Site Inspections, if necessary. We will also reflect on possible revisions to the draft Examination Timetable once a new date has been set for the PM (Annex C of our Rule 6 letter). We will also give consideration to the possibility of holding future events digitally, should present circumstances surrounding COVID-19 continue.

The Planning Inspectorate is seeking to ensure that all Parties are notified of key developments on projects in a timely manner. In order to help achieve this, and to minimise any delays which could arise if the postal service is affected, it would be extremely helpful if registered parties that have not already done so could supply a contact e-mail address as soon as possible (details at the heading of this letter). Please also monitor the project page and sign up to email updates, if you have not already done so via the project page:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/>

Finally, please accept my apologies for any disruption that results from this decision. I trust that you will appreciate that the approach we set out is necessary given the exceptional circumstances in which we all currently find ourselves.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Mahon

Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

Annex A: List of tasks that should be continued to assist the efficiency of the Examination;

Annex B: Blank Compulsory Acquisition schedule for populating.

Annex A

List of tasks that should be continued to assist the efficiency of the Examination

The Applicant
Continue to work with Interested Parties and Affected Persons on s106 agreements, side agreements and Compulsory Acquisition/ Temporary Possession negotiations.
Populate the Compulsory Acquisition schedule (attached at Annex B). The Applicant is required to maintain and update the schedule throughout the course of the Examination.
Further work to clarify and progress the Applicant's position on each of the alternative route options within the Order Limits and on the envisaged use of, and detailed locations for, land-based trenchless techniques. This should include refining assumptions, worst case assessments and the Rochdale envelope in respect of the EIA, as applicable.
Prepare responses to the Relevant Representations.
Local Authorities
Progress Local Impact Reports (LIR). Whilst this is primarily a responsibility for host authorities, neighbouring authorities are welcome to prepare a LIR, should they wish to do so.
The Applicant and Interested Parties
Progress Statements of Common Ground, as listed in Annex E of the Rule 6 letter.

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

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ANNEX B

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR LIST OF ALL OBJECTIONS TO THE GRANT OF COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OR TEMPORARY POSSESSION POWERS

Obj No. ⁱ	Name/ Organisation	IP/AP Ref No ⁱⁱ	RR Ref No ⁱⁱⁱ	WR Ref No ^{iv}	Other Doc Ref No ^v	Interest ^{vi}	Permanent/ Temporary ^{vii}	Plot(s)	CA? ^{viii}	Status of objection

ⁱ Obj No = objection number. All objections listed in this table should be given a unique number in sequence.

ⁱⁱ Reference number assigned to each Interested Party (IP) and Affected Person (AP)

ⁱⁱⁱ Reference number assigned to each Relevant Representation (RR) in the Examination library

^{iv} Reference number assigned to each Written Representation (WR) in the Examination library

^v Reference number assigned to any other document in the Examination library

^{vi} This refers to parts 1 to 3 of the Book of Reference:

- Part 1, containing the names and addresses of the owners, lessees, tenants, and occupiers of, and others with an interest in, or power to sell and convey, or release, each parcel of Order land;
- Part 2, containing the names and addresses of any persons whose land is not directly affected under the Order, but who "would or might" be entitled to make a claim under section 10 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965, as a result of the Order being implemented, or Part 1 of the Land Compensation Act 1973, as a result of the use of the land once the Order has been implemented;
- Part 3, containing the names and addresses of any persons who are entitled to easements or other private rights over the Order land that may be extinguished, suspended or interfered with under the Order.

^{vii} This column indicates whether the applicant is seeking compulsory acquisition or temporary possession of land/ rights

^{viii} CA = compulsory acquisition. The answer is 'yes' if the land is in parts 1 or 3 of the Book of Reference and National Grid are seeking compulsory acquisition of land/ rights.