

Aquind Interconnector – Section “Socio-Economic Effects”

Unique Reference AQUI-AFP090 & AQUI-AFP091 – James & Joan Veryard – [REDACTED]

Attached are correspondence which we believe will be of interest to everyone (Direct Current Magnetic Field from the Aquind’s proposed cable corridor): -

Letter to WSP Land Team – Nick McGuckin - Aquind Interconnector Project Manager – WSP dated 21st March 2019.

Aquind’s response (Response to EMF Query) dated 31st May 2019 (After pressure from Penny Mordaunt MP)

You will note that a number of questions were not answered, even though Aquind made reference to them in their paragraph 2. e.g. Reduced property prices and increased risk of cancer. They also failed to answer the question on noise when the cables are in operation.

Submission

Section 1 - Spinal Cord Stimulator & Deep Brain Implants

Section 2 – Risk of Cancer

Section 3 – Reduced property prices

Section 4 – Noise in operation

Section 5 - Summary

Section 1 - Spinal Cord Stimulators & Deep Brain Stimulators

The main purpose of our letter was to understand the effect of the magnetic field produced by the propose high voltage cables and the effect it would have on my wife’s [REDACTED] and also on [REDACTED]. Aquind believe *“the expected exposure of the design falls well within applicable public exposure limits and is expected to be negligible in relation to natural everyday fields at your dwelling”* and *“In general, the operation of these devices is not adversely affected by static fields below 500 μ T”*. Aquind have referred to CNIRP 2009 guidelines on limits of exposure to static magnetic fields to guide them.

Unfortunately Aquind failed to obtain the specification (they made a general enquiry only) for my wife’s [REDACTED] or even get Medtronic to confirm that their cable would not effect the device, nor did they refer to any studies to verify their opinion. If they had tried they would have discovered there are no studies.

Everyone we have spoken to cannot answer the question whether in practice [REDACTED] will be affected. A neurological surgeon at Southampton Hospital did say the magnetic field could wipe or corrupt the programme, but no trials have been carried out to verify this.

Section 2 - Cancer Risk

This area is very important to us, we have two grandchildren living with us (ages [REDACTED] and my wife has been in [REDACTED]).

From published information (for alternating current) it has been shown that there is a risk of “Childhood leukaemia” for fields in the home above 0.4 μ T (<http://www.emfs.info/health/leukaemia/>).

Aquind stated in letter dated 31st of May 2019 that at 8 metres from their cable corridor we will be experiencing 2.2µT. (We will be continually moving in and out of this zone). This value is above the Childhood leukaemia exposure highlighted, I note there is difference in the type of magnetic field produced between alternating current and direct current

Other sources of reference to similar findings are-

The Childhood Cancer Research Group (CCRG) (<https://www.energynetworks.org/industry-hub/resource-library/electric-and-magnetic-fields-facts.pdf>)

National Cancer Institute (<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/radiation/electromagnetic-fields-fact-sheet>)

Powerwatch (<https://www.powerwatch.org.uk/health/leukaemia.asp>)

After researching data/studied for direct current there have not been any reliable studies, but the emfs.info site states (<http://www.emfs.info/static-fields/static-expert/icnirp-static/>) *“Overall, the few available epidemiological studies have methodological limitations and leave a number of issues unresolved concerning the possibility of risk of cancer or other outcomes from long-term exposure to static magnetic fields. These studies do not indicate strong effects of static magnetic field exposure of the level of tens of mT on the various health outcomes studied, but they would not be able to detect small to moderate effects.”*

Hence, we not only conclude that Aquind are going to install direct current cables without knowing the full long-term implications for the residents of [REDACTED]. This area could be used for a new accurate study of direct current effects of health!!!!

It is also worth noting that there are two schools (Solent infant School and Solent Junior Schools) close to the proposed cable route. Many children walk up and down the length of [REDACTED] including youngster from Spring Field School and it is especially busy at the school crossing at the junction of Solent Road and Eveleigh Road.

Section 3 – Reduced property prices

There was no response to this area within Aquind’s reply dated 31st May 2019 – But it is well known that properties near overhead power lines have a reduced value and are more difficult to sell. (<https://www.propertyroad.co.uk/should-buy-house-near-power-lines/#:~:text=How%20far%20away%20from%20power,to%20be%20a%20safety%20risk>). The same may apply to properties which have high voltage direct current cables within 8m. – This needs clarification.

The proposed cable route was not flagged up on the searches when we purchased our home in June 2017 as it was too early. We would have not purchased this property if we had known this cable was proposed.

Section 4 – Noise in operation.

We stated in my letter 21st March 2019 “My [REDACTED], as the cable will be only 8m away would there be any noise (hum) as from overhead high voltage power cables”. “Joe (Aquind Engineer) assured me that the current was direct current (DC) and there is no noise. Note: Initially on speaking to your representative (Jack) prior to speaking to Joe (Engineer) he seemed to confirm yes there is a noise” – This needs clarification.

Section 5 - Conclusion

Aquind are proposing to transmit the 5% of Great Britain's Electricity Consumption 8m from our home and through the residential streets of Portsmouth. We believe this is commercially acceptable, but it is socially irresponsible.

There have not been any reliable studies on the long-term effect of High Voltage Direct Current, only CNIRP 2009 guidelines on which Aquind are relying.

We would suggest that Aquind make its landfall and install their cable corridor well away from residential areas, we are sure there are suitable alternatives.

If Aquind are given the go ahead, we will need to purchase a magnetic field reader to monitor the magnetic field that will be inflicted on us.

We await your reply with genuine concerns.