From: [redacted]
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Aquind Interconnector Project - Objection
Date: 05 October 2020 11:29:11

Dear Inspector,

I write to object in the strongest possible terms to the Aquind interconnector infrastructure project, due to come to land here in Portsmouth, close to my home in Eastney.

I am in favour, generally, of large scale infrastructure projects that will benefit the region or the wider UK, including where they might personally affect me negatively in the short term. However I struggle to understand the rationale for bringing this interconnector across one of the most densely populated spaces in the UK. Importantly, there seem to be no details in the submitted plans of any mitigation to affected residents, let alone any benefits that this project might bring to us in the longer term.

I object to these plans for the following reasons:

1) Lack of clarity on the benefits of this route vs others. Why not hit land either side of Portsea? Particularly on the western side which is industrial by its nature and already undergoing massive infrastructure works in a number of areas.

2) Lack of quality engagement with the public. I recall an initial public exhibition some time ago which deadly none of my family could attend. However since then, and as a relatively engaged member of the public, I've not seen anything. I have only just seen these plans today via a local residents WhatsApp group.

3) Disruption to the city. Portsmouth is the second most densely populated city in the country after London. There are only 3 roads off and on to the island, and only two of which have proper capacity. The plans show that one of these roads (Eastern Road) would have lanes closed to traffic. These works would dramatically reduce the access to the city for a considerable period of time, causing huge delays backing up onto the M27 and A3.

4) Environmental impact on the city. The plans go directly through green spaces, protected areas and areas with specific wildlife protections. Milton common, locks and now Milton and Eastney Allotments. If this goes ahead the effect on wildlife due to increase in pollution/traffic levels of idle vehicles in the surrounding area due to disruption caused by the projects road works will be catastrophic. Where will the inevitable works compounds be sited? What traffic impact assessments have been/will be undertaken etc etc.

I hope you will seriously consider these points I make. My concerns are shared by local councillors and importantly my constituency Member of Parliament, [redacted] who has been putting pressure on Government to think again about this national infrastructure project.

Kind regards,

Jon
[redacted]