

## SECTIONS 91, 92 AND 93 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

### NOTIFICATION OF HEARINGS FOR AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR (PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE: EN020022) RULE 13(6) OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) RULES 2010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with Rule 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, that hearings are due to be held by the Examining Authority for the Examination of the application made by AQUIND Limited (the 'Applicant') of OGN House, Hadrian Way, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, NE28 6HL for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under sections 35 and 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the 'Application'). The Application was accepted for Examination on Thursday 12 December 2019 and the Examination commenced on Wednesday 9 September 2020. The Planning Inspectorate's reference number for the Application is EN020022. In light of the current public health situation due to Covid-19 these hearings will be held virtually as indicated below.

#### SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

AQUIND Interconnector ('Project') is a new 2,000 MW subsea and underground High Voltage Direct Current ('HVDC') bi-directional electric power transmission link between the South Coast of England and Normandy in France. By linking the British and French electric power grids it will make energy markets more efficient, improve security of supply and enable greater flexibility as power grids evolve to adapt to different sources of renewable energy and changes in demand trends such as the development of electric vehicles. The Project will have the capacity to transmit up to 16,000,000 MWh of electricity per annum, which equates to approximately 5% and 3% of the total consumption of the UK and France respectively.

The Application seeks development consent for those elements of the Project located in the UK and the UK Marine Area ('Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development includes:

- HVDC marine cables from the boundary of the UK exclusive economic zone to the UK at Eastney in Portsmouth;
- jointing of the HVDC marine cables and HVDC onshore cables;
- HVDC onshore cables from Eastney to Lovedean;
- a Converter Station and associated electrical and telecommunications infrastructure at Lovedean;
- high Voltage Alternating Current ('HVAC') onshore cables and associated infrastructure connecting the Converter Station to the Great Britain electrical transmission network, the National Grid, at Lovedean Substation; and
- smaller diameter fibre optic cables to be installed together with the HVDC and HVAC cables and associated infrastructure.

#### HEARINGS

Hearings will be held virtually at the dates and times set out in the table below:

Date	Hearing	Time	Forum
Monday 15 February 2021 (reserved hearing date) <sup>(1)</sup>	• Issue Specific Hearing(s) (if required) • Open Floor Hearing(s) (if required)	To be confirmed, if required.	Virtual (Microsoft Teams) <sup>(2)</sup>
Tuesday 16 February 2021 (reserved hearing date) <sup>(1)</sup>	• Compulsory Acquisition Hearing(s) (if required)	To be confirmed, if required.	
Wednesday 17 February 2021	• Issue Specific Hearing 4 into the draft Development Consent Order (ISH4)	10:00	
Thursday 18 February 2021	• Issue Specific Hearing 5 into Environmental matters and Highways (ISH5)	10:00	
Friday 19 February 2021	• Open Floor Hearing 3 (OFH3) (if required)	10:00	
Friday 19 February 2021	• Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 3 (CAH3) (if required)	12:00	
Monday 22 February 2021 (reserved hearing date) <sup>(1)</sup>	• Continuation of OFH3 (if required) • Continuation of CAH3 (if required) • Exceptional Issue Specific Hearing (if required)	To be confirmed, if required.	

(1) If not required, the reserved hearing dates will be cancelled and notification will be provided via a banner on the project page on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/aquind-interconnector/>.

(2) Due to the nature of virtual events, the Planning Inspectorate can only accommodate participation in hearings by those who have registered in advance with the Planning Inspectorate's Case Team. Invitations will be sent by e-mail to those that have registered to speak and joining instructions will be provided at that time. Parties will be able to join from a computer, tablet, smartphone or a traditional landline telephone.

A link to the livestream of the hearings will be published on the project page on the Planning Inspectorate's website and a full digital recording will be made available as soon as possible after the close of the hearings.

Annex B of the Planning Inspectorate's letter dated 11 January 2021 provides further information on the hearings procedure and is available to download here: [https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020022/EN020022-003467-20210111%20EN020022%20AQUIND%20-%20Rule%208\(3\),%209%20and%2013%20letter.pdf](https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020022/EN020022-003467-20210111%20EN020022%20AQUIND%20-%20Rule%208(3),%209%20and%2013%20letter.pdf).

Additional guidance can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 8.5: The Examination - hearings and site inspections (December 2016) and Advice Note 8.6: Virtual examination events (version 1) which are available to download here: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes>.

#### COPIES OF THE APPLICATION

In light of the current public health situation surrounding Covid-19, copies of the Application documents are available to view free of charge on the Planning Inspectorate's website under the 'Documents' tab:

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

Electronic copies of the Application will be made available free of charge on a USB upon request to the Applicant. A paper copy is also available on request, subject to reasonable copying charges. Please email [aquindconsultation@becg.com](mailto:aquindconsultation@becg.com) or phone **01962 893 869** if you would like to request copies of the Application.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the Application, the hearings, how to take part in the Examination and any other matters covered in this notice may be obtained from the Planning Inspectorate or Applicant.

During the current Covid-19 period, in the interests of public health, the Planning Inspectorate should be contacted by written electronic form via e-mail or via telephone, using the contact details provided below.

**Email:** [aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:aquind@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 0303 444 5000

Please quote the Application reference number EN020022 in any correspondence with the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the Application.

21st January 2021