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The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Directorate
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By Email

Dear Sirs

Aquind Interconnector DCO - Applicant Deadline 7 Submission

Introduction

We are writing to you on behalf of AQUIND Limited (the 'Applicant') with regard to the application for the AQUIND Interconnector Development Consent Order (the 'Application') and in relation to the submission of information required from the Applicant for Deadline 7.

The Applicant's Deadline 7 submission is made in accordance with the letter issued by the Examining Authority ('ExA') dated 15 September 2020 (as since updated) pursuant to Rule 8 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010, which is submitted under cover of this letter.

The project team has been considering the submissions made at Deadline 6 including by continuing engagement with stakeholders throughout this period.

Deadline 7 Submission Documents Summary

The Applicant now submits the information required to satisfy the procedural ruling of the ExA for what must be submitted by Deadline 7 by the Applicant. A full list of all documents submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 7 is included with this letter at Schedule 1, and a schedule of changes is included with the submission.

Further to the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions issued on 7 January 2021, the Applicant submits responses to those questions including a number of appendices as required. In addition responses are provided in relation to the submissions of other parties at Deadline 6 and Deadline 6a.

The documents submitted by the Applicant include a request for non-material changes to the Order limits in response to further stakeholder feedback received and further engagement subsequent to this, taking into account further technical considerations. The changes requested, explained fully in document reference 7.9.36, are very minor and all relate to the removal of land. No new land is added to the Order limits, and no new or different likely significant environmental effects would be introduced where the changes are made.

An addendum to the Environmental Statement with appendices and an update to the Non-Technical Summary are submitted to address the assessment of additional cumulative impacts as



a consequence of a proposed third-party marine cable recently brought to the attention of the Applicant, necessitating the inclusion of a further marine cable crossing.

The addendum to the Environmental Statement also reports further transport assessment work undertaken in liaison with the highway authorities and Highways England, the Applicant's decision to remove the northern compound option for HDD5 (Denmead Meadows), the undertaking of a sensitivity test in relation to the impacts of air quality on clean air zones in Portsmouth, as well as incorporating information in relation to ash dieback and the implications of this in relation to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

An updated Non-Technical Summary to the ES is submitted taking into account the information included in the Environmental Statement Addendum, and an updated Habitats Regulations Assessment is also submitted which takes account of the further information contained within the Environmental Statement Addendum in so far as relevant.

An updated version of the draft Development Consent Order is submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 7 supported by a Schedule of the Changes to the Development Consent Order. An updated Explanatory Memorandum including amendments to reflect the changes made to the draft Development Consent Order is also submitted.

The Applicant is not in a position to submit signed versions of Section 106 Agreements as requested at this time, however the Applicant has sought to progress Section 106 related matters as expeditiously as possible following the December hearings. Drafts of Section 106 Agreements with Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth City Council are submitted for the information of the ExA. These drafts are provided as appendices to an Explanatory Note in relation to the Section 106 matters, which includes a summary of the drafts and their current status, together with further information in relation to other proposed heads of terms for planning obligations very recently received by the Applicant.

An Employment and Skills Strategy is submitted by the Applicant, a copy of which has been distributed to the host local authorities to consider in advance of the Deadline 7 submission. The Employment and Skills Strategy is proposed to be utilised to facilitate the submission and approval of an Employment and Skills Plan, with amendments made to the Requirements of the Draft Development Consent Order to secure this.

An updated compulsory acquisition schedule and Application Document Tracker are submitted, and as these documents provide the same information as the Application Guide an updated version of the Application Guide has not been provided to avoid duplication.

Updated Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) with some of the parties with which the Applicant is seeking an agreed SoCG are enclosed, together with an updated Statement of Commonality detailing progress made between the Applicant and relevant stakeholders on the SoCG. In this regard, whilst the Applicant has used all efforts to be in a position to submit a joint draft SoCG with Portsmouth City Council, discussions on this continued into the afternoon of Monday 25th January and it has not been possible to finalise the draft for submission in advance of the submission deadline. Accordingly, the Applicant intends to submit the joint draft SoCG with Portsmouth City Council within the next two days, which it is hoped the ExA will accept as a late submission.

An updated version of the Onshore Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OOCEMP) and the Outline Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy (OLBS) are submitted, which



includes updates following further feedback received from stakeholders and to address matters in those documents as necessary.

A further update to the Design and Access Statement (DAS) is also submitted which is necessitated by ongoing engagement with Winchester City Council and the South Downs National Park Authority to agree design principles in relation to the Converter Station, as well as including other minor amendments as necessary in relation to stakeholder feedback received and the separating out of design matters into the DAS and construction matters into the OOCEMP.

Lastly, a further Needs and Benefits Report Addendum is submitted which takes into account recent policy changes following the publication of the Energy White Paper: Powering our net zero future in December 2020.

Correspondence with Allotment holders

Further to the Examining Authority's procedural decision dated 11 November 2020 requesting the Applicant to update the Book of Reference for the Application to include the interests of the holders of allotments within the Order limits (PD-021), the Applicant has received additional LIQ responses since the deadline set. The Applicant encloses a further update to the Book of Reference to include the interests of the holders of allotments within the Order limits, as well as to reflect the proposed non-material changes to the Order limits.

Plans

Updated versions of the Converter Station and Telecommunications Buildings Parameters Plans and Indicative Converter Station Area Layout Plans and a description of the changes made and the reasons for those changes is set out in the Schedule of Changes document. Amendments made to the plans include the reflection of the revised Order limits following the acceptance by the ExA of the Second Change Request for examination, confirmed in the procedural decision dated 18 December 2020.

Further, updated versions of the Land Plans, Crown Land Plans, Works Plans, Site Location Plan, Access and Rights of Way Plans and the Hedgerow and Tree Preservation Order Plans reflecting the changes to the Order limits included in the change request submitted by the Applicant at Deadline 7.

We trust this covering letter provides a helpful and proportionate overview of the submissions made by the Applicant for Deadline 7. Should the Planning Inspectorate have any queries regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

Amy Hallam
Technical Director

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SCHEDULE 1 – APPLICANT’S DEADLINE 6 SUBMISSION DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Document Name
1.3	Application Document Tracker
2.1	Site Location Plan
2.2	Land Plans
2.3	Crown Land Plans
2.4	Works Plans
2.4	Works Plans Low Res Part 1
2.4	Works Plans Low Res Part 2
2.5	Access and Rights of Way Plan
2.6	Converter Station and Telecommunications Buildings Parameter Plans
2.7	Indicative Converter Station Area layout Plans
2.12	Hedgerow and Tree Preservation Order plans
2.12	Hedgerow and Tree Preservation Order plans (low res)
3.1	Draft Development Consent Order (clean)
3.1	Draft Development Consent Order (tracked)
3.2	Explanatory Memorandum (clean)
3.2	Explanatory Memorandum (tracked)
4.1	Statement of Reasons (clean)
4.1	Statement of Reasons (tracked)
4.3	Book of Reference (clean)
4.3	Book of Reference (tracked)
5.5	Design and Access Statement (clean)
6.2.15.48	Environmental Statement - Volume 2 - Figure 15.48 Indicative Landscape Mitigation Plan Option B(i) (north)

6.2.15.49	Environmental Statement - Volume 2 - Figure 15.49 Indicative Landscape Mitigation Plan Option B(i) (south)
6.4	Non-technical summary (clean)
6.4	Non-technical summary (tracked)
6.8.1	HRA - Vol 1 - Habitats Regulations Assessment Report Main Text (clean)
6.8.1	HRA - Vol 1 - Habitats Regulations Assessment Report Main Text (tracked)
6.8.2.8.1	HRA - Vol 2 - Figure 8.1 Location of In Combination Marine Projects
6.9	Onshore Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (clean)
6.9	Onshore Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (tracked)
6.10	Replacement Outline Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy (clean)
6.10	Replacement Outline Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy (tracked)
7.1.9	Deadline 7 Cover Letter (this document)
7.2.7	Deadline 7 Schedule of Changes
7.3.1	Schedule of Changes to the Draft Development Consent Order
7.4.1.10	Tree Survey Schedule and Constraints Plans
7.4.3	Applicant's Responses to the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions
7.4.3.1	Second Written Question Response - Appendix 1 - Technical Note providing a review of collision data at Strategic Road Network junctions (MG2.1.1)
7.4.3.2	Second Written Question Response - Appendix 2 - Infiltration Testing Results (MG2.1.1)
7.4.3.3	Second Written Question Response - Appendix 3 - Geotechnical Risk Assessment (MG2.1.1)
7.4.3.4	Second Written Question Response - Appendix 4 - Bentonite Breakout Note (MG2.1.3)
7.4.3.5	Second Written Question Response - Appendix 5 - Material Datasheets for HDD Drilling Fluid (MG2.1.4)

7.4.3.6	Second Written Question Response - Appendix 6 - Fort Cumberland Road Car Park Drawings (SE2.15.1)
7.4.3.7	Second Written Question Response - Appendix 6 - copies of the extent of Highway land maintained at public expense, which would ensure that the works can be delivered without third party negotiation (TT2.16.8)
7.4.3.8	Second Written Question Response - Appendix 8 - AQUIND Energy 2019 Accounts (CA2.3.10)
7.5.1	Statement of Commonality
7.5.4	Statement of Common Ground with Winchester City Council
7.5.5	Statement of Common Ground with Hampshire County Council
7.5.7	Statement of Common Ground with South Downs National Park Authority
7.5.8	Statement of Common Ground with Havant Borough Council
7.5.10	Statement of Common Ground with Highways England
7.5.13	Statement of Common Ground with Historic England
7.5.14	Statement of Common Ground with the Environment Agency (Onshore)
7.5.16	Statement of Common Ground with the Marine Management Organisation
7.5.20	Statement of Common Ground with Portsmouth Water Ltd
7.5.24	Explanatory Memorandum supporting S106 Agreement with Portsmouth City Council
7.6.1	Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (clean)
7.6.1	Compulsory Acquisition Schedule (tracked)
7.7.8	Indicative Landscape Mitigation
7.7.16	Additional Viewpoints Location Plan and Additional Viewpoints - Part A
7.7.16	Additional Viewpoints Location Plan and Additional Viewpoints - Part B
7.7.19	Needs and Benefits Second Addendum
7.7.20	Supplementary Transport Assessment Addendum



7.7.21	Appendix 16.3 Arboriculture Report Appendix F Generic Arb Method Statement
7.8.2	Environmental Statement Addendum 2
7.8.2.1	Appendix 1 - Errata Sheet
7.8.2.2	Appendix 2 - NOAA Tool Input and Spreadsheets
7.8.2.3	Appendix 3 - Ash Die Back Survey Results
7.8.2.4	Appendix 4 - Figure 1 - Denmead Meadows
7.8.2.5	Appendix 5 - Air Quality Sensitivity Test
7.9.9.1	Schedule of Documents Forming the Environmental Statement - tracked
7.9.26	Joint Bay Technical Note
7.9.33	Applicant's Responses to Deadline 6 Submissions - Hearings
7.9.33.1	Appendices A to D
7.9.34	Applicant's Responses to Deadline 6 and 6a Submissions - Other Submissions
7.9.35	Employment and Skills Strategy
7.9.36	Change Request 3
7.9.37	Traffic Demand Management Strategy