



AQUIND Limited

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR

Consultation Report – Appendix 1.2B Section
35 Direction from SoS - Letter and Briefing
Note to Onshore Stakeholders 17 August
2018

The Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations
2009 – Regulation 5(2)(a)

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17 August 2018

AQUIND Interconnector: A Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project

Dear ,

As you may be aware, on Monday 30 July 2018, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy issued a Section 35 Direction confirming that the AQUIND Interconnector project be treated as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) for which development consent is required under the Planning Act 2008.

Local authorities have an important role to play in the NSIP process and AQUIND is engaging with Planning Officers at your local authority to discuss next steps, in particular the approach to pre-application consultation.

Please find enclosed a short briefing note providing further information on the NSIP process together with a summary note on AQUIND's informal consultation undertaken in January 2018 which we hope you will find useful.

If you have any questions about the NSIP process at this stage, you can contact AQUIND's community engagement team via Freephone on **01962 893869** or via email at **aquindconsultation@becg.com**.

Further information about AQUIND Interconnector is available at **www.aquindconsultation.co.uk**.

Yours sincerely,

The AQUIND Community Engagement Team

AQUIND INTERCONNECTOR: A NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Overview

This briefing note provides more information on the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and what the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's decision to issue a direction for AQUIND Interconnector to be treated as an NSIP means for the development of the project.

What are Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects?

NSIPs are large scale developments in the fields of energy, transport, water, or waste which require a type of consent known as "development consent".

How does the planning process for NSIPs work?

The Planning Act 2008 requires developers of NSIPs to apply to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

The Planning Inspectorate acts as the examining authority on behalf of the Secretary of State and examines applications for a DCO. The Planning Inspectorate seeks the public's views on the application and then submits its recommendation to the Secretary of State, who makes the final decision. The Secretary of State will make their decision in accordance with applicable national policy, taking into account the local impact of the proposals.

What role do local authorities have in the NSIP process?

Host local authorities have an important role to play in the development of NSIPs and AQUIND will be engaging with relevant local authorities throughout the process.

During the pre-application stage, local authorities are consulted on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment to be undertaken, how the local community will be consulted and on the project proposals.

During the examination stage local authorities may provide representations on the local impact of the proposals and any other matters considered appropriate to the examining authority. The examining authority may seek written responses on matters concerning the proposals from the local authority and may also invite representatives of the local authorities to attend hearings on particular topics.

If development consent is granted, local authorities are typically responsible for discharging and monitoring many of the requirements (e.g. planning conditions) associated with an NSIP in their area.



How will AQUIND consult on its NSIP?

Consultation is an important part of the NSIP process. NSIP developers are required to publicise their proposals widely and consult with the local community, local authorities, statutory bodies and persons with an interest in land potentially affected by the proposed development.

Before accepting the application for examination on behalf of the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate must be satisfied that adequate pre-application consultation has been conducted.

Consultation with the local community

Before formal consultation with the local community on AQUIND's proposed NSIP can begin, AQUIND is required to prepare a statement setting out how it proposes to consult people living in the vicinity of the land affected by the project. This statement is commonly known as a Statement of Community Consultation ('SoCC').

AQUIND will share a draft Statement of Community Consultation with local authorities for informal discussion and comment in the near future.

Following this period of informal discussion, AQUIND will then share a draft Statement of Community Consultation with the host local authorities who have 28 days in which to respond formally.

Having had regard to any responses provided by the local authorities, AQUIND will publish the Statement of Community Consultation and make it available to view

for local people living in the vicinity of the land affected by the project.

Formal consultation must then be carried out in accordance with the final Statement of Community Consultation.

All comments submitted during the consultation will be recorded and carefully considered by AQUIND and will be taken into account when further developing the proposal.

An explanation of how the comments received have been taken into account will be detailed in the Consultation Report to accompany the DCO application.

AQUIND's formal consultation with the local community will build on the informal consultation undertaken in January 2018.

The feedback received in relation to the informal consultation has informed the evolution of the proposals and the scope of the technical assessments.

More information

More information on the project timeline will be provided in due course. An application for a DCO is expected to be submitted in 2019.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact AQUIND's community engagement team on freephone **01962 893 869** or via email at aquindconsultation@becg.com.



