

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: FW: Aquind Interconnector: Secretary of State Consultation Number 3
Date: 09 November 2021 12:25:03
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.jpg](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[SoS Request to Contact NGET.pdf](#)

Application by AQUIND Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the AQUIND Interconnector Project

Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

**Secretary of State Request for Further Information No. 3 (4
November 2021)**

Unique Reference: EN020022

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a letter from Winchester City Council that we hope the Secretary of State will consider and act upon over the coming days relating to seeking an update from National Grid Electricity Transmissions plc regarding the micro siting issue. The reasons behind this request and why the Council is making it at this time are outlined in the letter.

Regards

Steve Cornwell

Aquind Interconnector

Lead Officer

WCC

Stephen Cornwell
Winchester City Council



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Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
United Kingdom

09 November 2021

Dear Sir

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 Application by AQUIND Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed AQUIND Interconnector (“the AQUIND Interconnector project”)

Secretary of State Consultation No. 3

Unique Reference: EN020022

Request for Secretary of State to undertake additional consultation involving National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

Thank you for the notification dated 4 November 2021 of the issuing of the third request for Aquind to present additional information. The deadline for the response by midnight 18 November 2021 is also noted. The request for further information relates to four matters, which are set out in your letter as follows:

- Consideration of Alternatives
- North Portsea Island Coastal Defence Scheme
- National Planning Policy Framework (“NPPF”) – Flood Risk Updates
- Micro-siting of Converter Station

In this correspondence the Council wishes to focus on the micro siting of the Converter Station and the specific request for an update on the progress of the negotiations between Aquind and the National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET). This relates to the land deal that would enable micro siting option B(ii) to be implemented. The Council has set out the situation in previous correspondence.

Based on previous experience, it seems likely that the third parties will be offered an opportunity to comment on any new information. However, the Council does not wish to wait until that opportunity to raise the following matter, as it believes that the intervening time can be used to advantage if action is undertaken now. In essence, the Council requests that in addition to seeking an update from Aquind that the Secretary of State also approaches NGET so that you have a complete picture of actions over the past 9 months. The reference to this period reflects the date from which Aquind stated that an agreement in principle had been reached between the two parties.

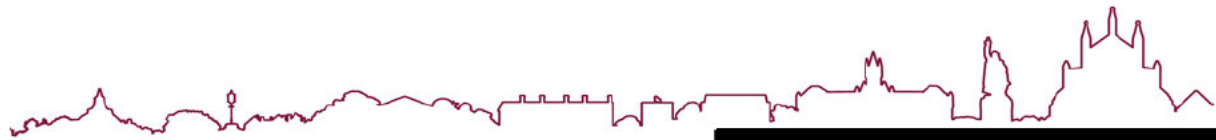
You may be considering that this letter is pre-emptive without the latest update from Aquind. However, the following will explain the reasoning behind this approach. When the three-month extension was announced on 21 October 2021 the Council contacted the applicant asking for an update on the micro siting issue. Unless there has been some progress over the last two weeks, we already know the answer to the question.

The strength of the Councils conviction remains firm that if the scheme is approved, then it should only proceed with micro siting option B(ii). This belief is only matched by the developing frustration at the lack of the conclusion of the negotiations between the two parties. The difficulty in understanding the lack of progress is even more disappointing as we are informed both are in agreement on the way forward and have been for some months. Consequently, the Council is of the opinion that you should ask both parties for information on the delay so you have a full picture of events.

During the Examination process, we note that Eversheds Sutherland acted for NGET. Their last correspondence to the Examining Authority is recorded as document REP8-110 in the Examination Library.

By raising this matter with you now, the Council feels that a request for information could be sent to NGET with an appropriate deadline. The resulting letter could if you feel it appropriate, then be part of any third party consultation exercise without impinging on the general timetable.

Yours faithfully
Julie Pinnock BA (Hons) MTP MRTPI
Service Leas, Built Environment



City Offices, Colebrook Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9LJ

APPENDIX C

**Appendix 2 from the Outline Landscape and Biodiversity Strategy
Management Plan rev-005 (Library document reference REP8-015)**

Option B(i)

