

From: Fran Wright <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 14 March 2023 21:23
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: AQUIND Portsmouth Electrical and Data Cable Inter-connector

Categories: Consultation Response

To Whom This may Concern

I strongly object to the Russian backed AQUIND Portsmouth interconnector project for an Electrical and Data Cable Inter-connector between France and the UK. Please uphold the original decision to reject this project for the following reasons outlined in this objection letter:

1. The proposed route of AQUIND cables includes tunnelling under important community facilities and protected habitats, plus deep and disruptive trenches gouging through vital road links, through dense urban areas, along with areas of outstanding natural beauty designated for recreation use plus habitats for local nature.
2. Recent Russian hold over gas supplies illustrate why the UK should not embark on Russian reliance or control of our vital energy supplies. This project will hand control of the UK energy supply to countries outside of the UK, therefore UK energy costs will not reduce as a result of this project.
3. Unmonitored Russian fibre data cables will give access to the UK's data network, causing a major risk to national security.
4. As an island city and the second most densely populated city in the UK outside of London, disruption to the flow of traffic into and out of Portsmouth will increase pollution levels, and therefore increase the risk to health. Traffic congestion will inhibit ambulances and impact fire trucks from attending incidents.
5. Traffic disruption will affect the three main access routes into and out of the island city of Portsmouth, will dissuade visitors from travelling into the city. As a result the local economy and local businesses will suffer irreversibly.
6. Long-term use of open public spaces will be occupied during the years of installation this project represents. An entire main road will be dug up, land and homes will be compulsorily purchased, farmland, allotments, countryside trenched and contaminated causing irreversible, life-long damage to people, property, the natural environment, flora and fauna.
7. In January 2022, the then Secretary of State rejected AQUIND Limited's application for a Development Consent Order.
8. AQUIND launched a judicial review to overturn the planning refusal decision. AQUIND Ltd v Secretary of State for BEIS hearings were held at the High Court on 22-23 November 2022. On 25 January 2023, the judgement was made in favour of AQUIND. I believe the judgement was flawed based on the objections provided.

As the second most densely populated city in the UK outside of London, please uphold the original decision to reject the AQUIND project.

Best wishes,
Francesca Wright