

Atkins, Caelan

From: Janet Ayers <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 13 March 2023 11:07
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Objection to the AQUIND Interconnector Project Portsmouth

Categories: Consultation Response

Dear Sir,

I am writing to give my objections to the planned AQUIND Interconnector installation in Portsmouth and Havant.

All of our councillors and both MPs in Portsmouth and along the proposed route are opposed to this unnecessary and unsafe project. It will not benefit our city, only cause untold damage and disruption.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION

There is documentary evidence of toxic waste, including lethal asbestos and mercury, that was buried beneath our feet in areas where Aquind are proposing to drill.

HARM FROM THE INTERCONNECTOR ITSELF

Potential harms of electromagnetic fields, the jury is out but as long as there's no conclusive proof either way, why take the risk? We do know that the waves will adversely affect residents with electronic implants.

CONTAMINATED FOOD

Aquind now propose to tunnel beneath the allotments along the proposed route but this raises troubling questions about the possible toxicity of lubricants used when drilling and the risk of contaminating the produce grown there.

SECURITY THREAT

Aquind added a data cable after their original submission. Under the terms of a DCO is this permissible? Portsmouth MPs Stephen Morgan and Penny Mordaunt are united in their opposition to this project; they have both said repeatedly the scheme would pose a national security risk.

SUPPORT FROM FRENCH CITIZENS

The French have resolutely opposed this scheme from its inception and are still saying 'non', at local and national level so, apart from anything else, the scheme does not make business sense. Even if they had said 'oui' they have no spare electricity anyway. Aquind has already been granted exemption from pricing regulation, meaning it can make huge profits. The scheme goes against UK energy policy on developing more 'home grown' energy sustainably to achieve energy security.

NEGATIVE IMPACT ON SEA DEFENCES

The pipeline would interfere with the much-needed new sea defences running alongside Langstone Harbour that are already under construction. There is a serious risk of flooding if this work is disrupted.

NUCLEAR POWER IS NOT GREEN ENERGY

Aquind claim that electricity from the nuclear power station in Normandy is green but it is not. Nuclear waste cannot be disposed of safely. As long as nuclear power stations are still in use we are, literally, storing up problems for future generations. Also, in the event of a nuclear accident the results would be catastrophic, as we know from what happened at Chernobyl and Fukushima. Therefore, not only will this interconnector be unnecessary and contrary to government energy policy, but it will also pose a danger.

MAJOR DISRUPTION TO ONE OF THE ONLY THREE ROUTES ON PORTSEA ISLAND

The trenches will be very wide. This will mean that at least one lane of the Eastern Road will have to be closed. We have only three main roads in and out of the city and this is one of them. The result will be gridlock. It will do untold damage to residents' lives and to businesses, not only along the route but throughout our city and beyond. It is

ridiculous to consider routing this interconnector through Portsmouth, the second most densely populated city after London with already high levels of pollution and very poor air quality.

LONG TERM DAMAGE TO VITAL LOCAL ECO-SYSTEMS

The proposed route cuts through an area of scientific interest at Langstone Harbour, a feeding ground for rare Brent geese that fly thousands of miles to arrive here every year.

HOME OWNERS WILL LOSE THEIR HOMES

Aquind want compulsory purchase powers to acquire swathes of land along the route, including 25,000 sq m of woodland near Lovedean where the route ends. There is intense local opposition to this.

IN CONCLUSION

This unnecessary and unsafe interconnector will cause massive disruption and damage to residents and wildlife in our already congested city with no clear benefits. It will lead to even more air and noise pollution, loss of wildlife habitats, disruption to residents and businesses, loss of precious green spaces and sports facilities. Disturbing toxic waste in landfill sites will pose a risk to public safety, potentially putting lives at risk. Plus to security risk of a communication line added to the route.

Aquind is a company mired in accusations of cronyism and sleaze. Thirty-four Conservative MPs, including the current PM and the chancellor, have received donations from Aquind and its owners, amounting to at least £1.6m. Co-owner Alexander Temerko is a member of the influential Leaders Group that decides government policy. We want Portsmouth to be clean in every way, green and safe. Aquind have no place in it.

Regards, Janet
Janet Ayers

