

Atkins, Caelan

From: Pat Cameron Davies <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 21 March 2023 16:42
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Proposed Aquind Interconnector development between Northern France and the South Downs

Categories: Consultation Response

Ref. Planning application for Aquind's proposed interconnector, consisting of high voltage electrical cables and communication network between Northern France and the South Downs.

I wish to express my concern about the proposed Aquind Interconnector cable and ask that planning permission is not only denied for environmental reasons – both local and energy supply. But most importantly I ask it to be rejected for political reasons – Is a Russian funded energy supply from France to the UK really a good idea?

The densely populated areas of Portsmouth with only 3 access roads could easily become gridlocked during the laying of the Aquind interconnector cable alongside one of those main arteries. Eastney, Portsmouth, Farlington, Drayton, Widley, Purbrook, Waterlooville, Denmead and Lovedean, will also all suffer greatly. The disturbance to the site of special scientific interest of Langstone Harbour and then cutting through large areas of green space and farmland will all adversely affect the environment. Local communities will suffer major disruptions as both main road arteries and quiet residential roads are carved up to lay the cable. Land and housing will surely be devalued.

To say nothing of the possibility of health risks to the residents now and in the future from the laying and then living in close proximity to a mega powerful cable

As a resident of Denmead for over 45 years, the thought of the disruption to the environment and residents that will be caused by laying a high power electricity cable for over 12 miles from Eastney in Portsmouth to the Lovedean substation fills me with dismay.

But what really terrifies me at this time in history is the political implications of allowing a company part owned by Russian born, Victor Fedotov and Ukrainian born Russian businessman Alexander Temerko to have any control over the energy supply and communication network that are essential for the United Kingdom. Current events are showing us that Russia cannot be trusted and whilst the two Russian linked directors and shareholders of Aquind may not be sympathetic to Russian demands it still could make any of their projects prime targets for Russian aggression. Portsmouth is, of course the home of the Royal Navy – is this really the sensible location for Russian funded infrastructure?

It is alleged that the directors of Aquind have made donations of £1.5 million to members of the Conservative party, it appears both Rishi Sunak and Jeremy Hunt have received substantial amounts. I sincerely hope these donations will not influence political policy.

In 2016, when the UK was still in the EU, Aquind's claim was that the cable would make the energy market more efficient and improve the security of supply. The energy market has now changed beyond all belief –

- we are now longer part of the EU yet 4 of our big energy companies are EU owned with EDF being a subsidiary of the French government energy company
- striking workers in France are slowing vital maintenance work to their nuclear reactors (only 29 of 56 reactors actually online in October)
- French general strikes continue to disrupt energy supply this year
- France is not in a position to export any energy – the lights on the Eiffel tower are being turned off early to save energy

So far from making our energy market more secure the UK could unwittingly be sending energy at a price decided by EDF, over to France in their time of need. It seems unlikely that the EU will have any 'spare' energy to send to the UK

Recent events have shown that undersea cables and pipelines are extremely vulnerable to damage.

- The Channel Islands lost 75% of their communication network when cables were destroyed by a fishing boat anchor in 2016
- The Shetland Islands lost communication link when their 2 cables were damaged in October 2022 – fishermen again or Russian sabotage?
- Norwegian and British vessels are patrolling the area of the Langeland pipelines between Norway and Britain. The Norwegian owners, Gassco, are on highest security alert to Russian sabotage
- Nord Stream pipelines supplying gas from Russia to Europe have been subject to 'unexplained leaks' and now closed by the Russians

The UK clearly needs to improve the security and green credentials of our energy supply but for the sake of both National cyber security and the security of the UK energy supply, I urge you to join with the Members of Parliament for Portsmouth North and South to reject this planning application and do whatever is necessary to oppose the laying of the Aquind cable and communication network anywhere in the UK.

Pat Cameron Davies

