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Sent: 29 March 2023 11:20
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Objection to Aquind Interconnector Appeal

Categories: Consultation Response

To the Planning Inspectors

I do not support Aquind's Appeal for the following reasons:

The Principle

My view has changed since 2020. I thought that Aquind could join other interconnectors to support the transition to more renewable sources of energy in the UK, by providing back up when these sources e.g. solar and wind, are in low production. This was on the basis of France having excess electricity to export from its 56 nuclear generators. However, since 2021 there there have been technical problems with France's nuclear power stations which have led to shut downs. Although more nuclear power generation is planned in France, we can no longer see this as a reliable back-up supply.

In the longer term there may be a case for more interconnection as France also transitions to renewable energy i.e. energy can be transferred between countries when wind or solar power is low in one but may be high in the other. However there is uncertainty here, so it is not sufficient justification for the Aquind project to go ahead as currently planned.

Governance

Donations made to the Conservative party, cast doubt on the impartiality of any government decision about this project. Information about the finances of this company and its owner is opaque. More scrutiny would be needed, to ensure that any deal done to deliver electricity via Aquind would be beneficial to the UK.

The Location and Route

Since 2020 we have seen huge objections to the disruption that the planned route would make through Portsmouth. Environmental risks have been raised about taking the cable through Milton Common and allotments. There are other environmental risks around Denmead. The large convertor station at Lovedean will impact South Downs National Park. Certainly the cables should not be routed through one of the most densely populated cities in Europe. A alternative route through Langstone Harbour's SSSI, SAC, SPA and RAMSAR is also not acceptable on environmental grounds.

This project should not be considered unless an alternative less damaging route can be found, such as for IFA2 which came ashore at Lee-on-the-Solent.

Yours sincerely

Patricia Brooks



Member of Havant Climate Alliance and Havant Friends of the Earth