

Atkins, Caelan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 March 2023 08:28
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Objections to the Aquind interconnector project

Categories: Consultation Response

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

The concept

It was originally proposed that interconnectors would 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. This was supposed to give the UK time to invest in renewable energy

Unfortunately, since 2021 there have been technical problems with France's nuclear power stations which have led to shut downs and 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. I am reluctant to support nuclear energy in any case and believe that money should go into wind, solar and tidal power and into reducing demand. There are clear and obvious risks to nuclear power.

Impartiality

Donations made to the Conservative party, cast doubt on the impartiality of any government decision about this project. The decision has to be made disregarding these donations.

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.

Sue James
Member of Havant Friends of the Earth and Havant Climate Alliance

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