

Atkins, Caelan

From: David Price <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 28 March 2023 23:01
To: Aquind Interconnector
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Aquind Interconnector Objection letter

Categories: Consultation Response

To whom it may concern

I am writing to voice my very strongest objections to the proposed AQUIND interconnector scheme.

This application has correctly been rejected once and I urge you to do so again.

The French have also rejected the proposal this far, we should do the same.

Strategy

The whole strategy behind the plan is flawed; building more interconnectors will not necessarily be of benefit to the UK, there are plenty already and becoming more heavily dependent on French nuclear power puts us at a political disadvantage.

The plan conflicts with the UK's Net Zero Strategy; we should be lowering our reliance on fossil fuels and investing far more heavily in sustainable clean energy sources.

Environment

This scheme cause extreme damage to the environment and wildlife that depends on two sites of Special Scientific Interest – Farlington Marshes and Langstone Harbour. The proposed route will also rip through some of the few parks and commons that provide oasis of green within one of the most densely populated cities in the UK.

Residents who sit on the proposed route now face years of disruption, noise, congestion and heightened levels of traffic and the resulting pollution that will also spread across the city. The island already has higher than wanted levels of pollution and the Portsmouth City Council have been working hard to look at ways to improve this with green schemes across the city, however if the AQUIND scheme goes ahead, it will make it impossible to achieve this reduction in pollution, or improve the traffic problems and allow the Council to meet their targets.

Geography/Logistics

As an island city there are only three routes onto the island and AQUIND has set its sights on running through one of them which will make navigating an already busy island, tricky, slow and difficult to navigate with the potential for traffic backing up for miles each day, due to the bottlenecking effect this will have, for possibly years to come. This will damage property prices and lower the quality of the life of anyone that this will affect.

Some of those residents and communities on the proposed route, also have the worry of compulsory purchase orders being placed on their lands and homes, or the upset of the cables carving through allotments that people work hard to maintain, and in this present climate, rely on for food. This shows a clear disregard for any of the residents on the island and their quality of life, and is yet another shocking example of profit before people.

With resources and access to NHS services already squeezed, and with Portsmouth being flagged as one of the worst for access to healthcare in the country, this route will also have a direct impact on access to the only A&E hospital in the area (Queen Alexandra); as impacts of the congestion caused by these works that plan to go up near the hospital, will create massive backlogs to the roads around the hospital making it very hard for people to get in, and ambulances to get out to emergencies.

With Portsmouth recently voted as one of the top trending destinations to visit in 2023, it is ludicrous to allow a scheme that will cause such economical harm and disruption to a large and popular tourist destination.

Political/Commercial Interests

AQUIND Ltd is a company owned by those who have previously had direct links with the Kremlin, and hold no record for completing any such project previously or on such a scale. With relationships with Russia currently very tense and the UK being on high alert for security threats from Russia (who have already disabled our Postal Service for weeks with cyber attacks) it is a very questionable that this scheme has now added the inclusion of data cables into the planning application, and this could well be considered a threat to national security.

All political parties in Portsmouth including Labour and the Conservative Commons leader Penny Mordaunt, have already put forward their concerns and objections to the AQUIND scheme.

It has been clear that at every stage of planning that AQUIND have passed this far, they have been given the green light to proceed by members of the Conservative Party who have directly received financial contributions from the company's owners.

The only possible response you can have to this application is to reject it. Anything else will be considered highly morally and legally objectionable. We will not give up this fight and will pursue all courses available to us to see it through.

Yours Sincerely

David Price

