

Atkins, Caelan

From: Janet sampson [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 March 2023 17:34
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Objection letter

Categories: Consultation Response

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the potential Aquind interconnector project in Portsmouth and up to Lovedean, a project which has already been rejected by the then Secretary of State, Kwasi Kwarteng.

The MPs for Portsmouth North(Penny Mordaunt) and Portsmouth South(Stephen Morgan), Portsmouth City Council, grass roots campaigners and local residents stand united in their opposition.

The disruption and damage during construction over a lengthy period would be huge. Portsmouth is an island city with only 3 main roads in and out of it. The Eastern Road would be gridlocked if one or more lanes were to be blocked off during construction. On match days the southbound lanes on this road are jammed with cars, with fumes from idling engines polluting the air. It is inconceivable to imagine the additional gridlock and pollution which would be caused were this project to be given the green light.

In addition, what would the impact be on the multi million sea defences project, much of which has already been put in place along the Langstone shoreline? Residents have tolerated a degree of disruption, recognising that our low-lying city is increasingly under threat of floods. Will this costly but necessary scheme be hijacked by the interconnector scheme?

The allotment holders at Milton have understandable concerns about contamination. It would be extremely foolhardy to dig trenches in areas known to contain toxic waste. This would include the data cable as well as the energy cable, the former being an add on to Aquind's plans, requiring swathes of land to be dug up to accommodate both.

The eastern shores of Portsmouth contain valued nature reserves and protected areas for wildlife, much-appreciated by residents in this densely-populated city

Compulsory purchase is a very real worry for those living by strategic but congested points on the proposed route, as well as landowners threatened by this in areas approaching the sub station at Lovedean.

How can the plans proceed when the French are adamant against the proposals, and have been from the start? There is staunch opposition from the prefectures and Non a Aquind, the grass roots group. Not only does this not sound like the basis for a business plan, the French do not have energy to spare! The exemption Aquind has been granted from pricing regulations means that they have their eyes firmly fixed on profits, rather than facilitating affordable energy - at a time when households are struggling to pay their increased bills.

We are living through times of crisis and conflict. If the interconnector were to link with Portsmouth, home of the Royal Navy, this could be viewed as a national security risk. Surely we should focus on being resilient and developing our own sustainable energy to achieve energy security?

Lastly, it is a concerning fact that 34 Conservative MPs, including the current PM and the chancellor, have received donations of at least £1.6m in total from Aquind's owners, and despite this being a company with no previous track record in major projects of this type.

I am bound to say that I cannot find any benefits which would justify the Aquind project being allowed to proceed in Portsmouth and its environs.

Yours sincerely,
Janet Sampson

Sent from my iPad