

Atkins, Caelan

From: Miriam Sampson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 28 March 2023 17:28
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: FW: Aquind interconnector planning appeal - an objection from Portsmouth residents

Categories: Consultation Response

Dear Planning Inspector,

As residents of Portsmouth we are writing to express our objections to the proposed Aquind interconnector which will run through Portsmouth.

It is a moot point whether more interconnectors between Britain and France are really needed but, even if they are, Portsmouth is not a good place to build one.

Portsmouth is one of the most densely populated cities in the country with only three main routes on and off Portsea Island. This interconnector proposal would cause significant obstruction for months, even years, along one of the main roads, the Eastern Road, which is already severely congested both morning and evening. It could result in complete gridlock making it impossible for emergency vehicles to move around the city.

It is also proposed to run the cables through residential areas where there is already significant infrastructure underground, including electricity cables, gas mains and sewers, and again major disruption will be caused to local residents. The additional traffic congestion and loss of access to local green spaces will affect many people in the local population.

It is also going to drastically impact the local environment. Farlington Marshes and Langstone Harbour are important habitats for native and migrating birds, which will be badly affected by this project. In addition, Milton Common is reclaimed land which was formally a landfill site, and digging through it could bring toxic waste to the surface with potentially dangerous consequences.

It is not only local residents who are against this project, but also both the Portsmouth MPs - one Labour and one Conservative - Portsmouth City Council and Havant Borough Council. In fact there is united opposition to the project by all with local knowledge of the area.

In addition AQUIND is an entirely unsuitable company to be undertaking this project. The company has no record of successfully achieving a project of this nature. One of the directors has previously been linked to mismanagement of funds on similar work in Russia. The company and its directors have also donated over £1.5 million to Conservative MPs, which looks suspiciously like an attempt to buy influence with the government.

This project was previously rejected by Kwasi Kwarteng when he was Secretary of State for Business. It is only because of an appeal to the High Court for a judicial review on a technicality that this project is still under consideration. The facts that led to the previous rejection have not changed, therefore we urge you to reject it again.

Thank you.

Dr Miriam Sampson and Dr Philip Sampson

