

Atkins, Caelan

From: Cherie Thurston <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 31 March 2023 16:06
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Objection to Aquind

Categories: Consultation Response

To whom ever it may concern

I am writing to you today to voice my objection for the AQUIND interconnector project that is proposed to run from Portsmouth to Lovedean. If this project goes forward, it is going to have a detrimental effect on Portsmouth's environmental, economic and residential life.

Environmental:

Portsmouth is an island city and desperately short of land in general and green space in particular. This project would damage and destroy precious green spaces that we have. The Milton harbour and Milton common areas on the route are important habitats for many sea birds and water fowl, and an over wintering site for Brent geese. The wild heathland is home to many land birds and the autumn berries on Milton Common are an important food source for wildlife. Several green spaces and parks are also going to be dug up and fenced off. These are precious green spaces for dog walkers, sports, children to play etc. and important to physical and mental health.

It would also disturb the numerous wildlife species that thrive on allotments, grass snakes, smooth newts, foxes, frogs are some, and birds of all type.

I am also concerned about the release of potentially hazardous substances. A lot of the area in the south east of the city (on the route) is reclaimed land and part of the proposed route includes areas where it is know that toxic waste was dumped many years ago. Who knows what digging up the area will uncover? Following is an excerpt from Portsmouth city council Contaminated Land Part 2a Strategy 2020 Appendices, "Milton Harbour was filled with dockland wastes and by uncontrolled tipping. This created Milton Common which has become a pleasant green space with proposed Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status." This is the exact area Aquind propose to dig huge trenches many metres across in.

Economic:

The proposed construction would cause gridlock on some of the main roads in and out of the island city and increase carbon emissions. Portsmouth already suffers from poor air quality and has recently introduced a clean air zone to try to combat this, any increase in congestion goes against government own air standards. The majority of Portsmouth is narrow Victorian roads that were not built for cars and any extra increase in traffic caused by the project could cause complete chaos. The plan calls for lanes being closed on major roads along the route. This would affect businesses along the route and add to pollution. condemn thousands of people living and working in the Portsmouth and Waterlooville areas to many years of extra dust, air pollution, noise, traffic chaos, compulsory house purchases and aggravated antisocial living conditions in general.

To even consider letting a zero track-record company remove numerous listed trees; rip up the ground harbouring dormant toxic waste; severely restrict city road access on the eastern shoreline of the most populated peninsular on the south coast; cut through an important area of special scientific interest on Langstone Harbour; dig its way up Portsdown Hill and carve a trench through the densely populated London Road and East Hampshire countryside as far as Lovedean; adding to already exceptionally high pollution levels and creating many many months, if not years, of traffic chaos, all for the sake of bringing Non-Eco friendly nuclear power from France to our shores, is quite simply, an absolutely ludicrous scheme which simply cannot be justified on any rational level.

The sheer depth of public opposition rapidly growing and being voiced in this area around Portsmouth, really has to be seen to be believed. As the local people here digest the full details of the disruption that will be caused, the majority cannot see that there is anything at all to recommend this plan, especially as it would appear that our French counterparts on the other side of the channel are also vehemently against this scheme as well.

If you consider that bringing Non-Eco friendly nuclear generated electric power from France to our shores, against the current Tory Party Policy for the supply of 100% sustainable green energy in the UK by 2030, is actually essential, I would point out that there are several, far less disruptive schemes, involving much less populated routes and

different connection points to our national grid, that have been put forward for consideration and which really should be considered in preference to this ludicrous waste of money and wilful destruction of property. Please also take into account that I am extremely concerned about the provision of an Open-Access Data Link, as added to the latest version of the proposal.

As well as being dis-allowable under the terms of a DCO, this provision could actually threaten our National Security, as it would provide another link into our country's data network, that the MOD partly relies on for the defence of our realm. This would be first-class madness and should never be allowed to happen under any circumstances. Quite apart from my main objection to this plan on personal and environmental grounds, I also firmly believe that, if this project is actually given the go-ahead by your office, as well as giving the green light to years of disruption and chaos in the Portsmouth area, the Tory Party also will suffer in the long run, with local Tory members losing a massive amount of local public support and possibly even their seats in Parliament.

The company Aquind itself has no recognised success or experience in this field and seems to have been created for the project. It is also very worrying that they are heavily Russian born/influenced and have added a data cable to the plan. There is also the question of a huge amount of money, running into millions, being paid to Conservative politicians. These 'donations' could easily be construed as bribes by some.

Residential:

People's homes will also be blighted by the works. Considering the scale of the massive trenches described on Aquind's own proposal documents it is certain to cause damage to infrastructure and property. I would expect disruption to services, accidental cutting of cables, pipelines etc. due to the high density of homes in narrow roads and the scale of the proposed work.

As a Portsmouth resident and a volunteer in Eastney I have concentrated on the negative affects in my own area but, I believe that very similar detrimental affects will be felt all along the route. Particularly some of the very busy areas in Waterlooville that are included.

There is a reason why this project has united people from across ALL the political spectrum. The massive number of negative points to this project far outweigh any possible gains. Indeed, city MPs Stephen Morgan MP (Labour) and Penny Mordaunt MP (Conservative) , as well as the City Council (cross-party), have all come together with residents to object to this proposal.

PLEASE listen to the people of Portsmouth and make the right decision; to REJECT the AQUIND interconnector.

Thank you for taking time to read my objection.

Yours faithfully

Cherie Thurston

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.