

Atkins, Caelan

From: Sharon Court <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 14 April 2023 13:35
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Portsmouth says no to Aquind

Categories: Consultation Response

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to add my voice to the thousands of other across Portsmouth who object to the Aquind Interconnector.

The proposed development has already been turned down twice and I am deeply concerned that it is being given yet another opportunity for consideration.

I am vehemently opposed to the construction of a pipeline which will wreak utter havoc and chaos to Portsmouth.

The suggestion that the Aquind interconnector would bring much needed extra power is erroneous: offshore wind is reliable as the wind speed rarely drops below the minimum required for generation. There is no guarantee of energy security from the French nuclear estate, which is suffering serious maintenance issues, and France is committed to providing power within the EU, of which we are no longer a member.

Aquind also suggests that such a cable is necessary to meet the future power needs of the south east. However, Ofgem figures show that current capacity, approved projects and Xlinks from Morocco would more than meet the requirement, so we don't need the Aquind interconnector and the damage it would cause our city and countryside.

In addition, Aquind estimates that the "disruption" caused by turning the eastern side of the city into a building site would be "temporary", but the 5-7 year timescale of the project does not feel temporary to local residents. We already struggle with congestion and heavy traffic if the A27 or M275 have issues. The vehicle movements and lane closures would paralyse business in Portsmouth, the traffic chaos would choke our city and further pollute our air, which has already been identified as dangerously low quality.

The loss of green spaces and amenities such as sports facilities and parking would be long-term or permanent, and the blight caused by the huge converter stations required would last for decades. Not to mention the irreparable damage to land which is a haven for local wildlife, including migrating Brent Geese who overwinter in Portsmouth every year, the waterfowl in Farlington Marshes and the proximate impact on Langstone Harbour which is an area of International Special Scientific Significance.

Please can you make sure that our objections are upheld and our choices about our home and where we live, work and learn are respected. We do not want the Aquind Interconnector and it's high time this ghastly project was shut down permanently.

Sincerely,

Mrs Sharon Court
[REDACTED]
Portsmouth