

Atkins, Caelan

From: Katherine Sweeney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 25 April 2023 21:15
To: Aquind Interconnector
Cc: Katherine Sweeney
Subject: Objection to Aquind Interconnector in Portsmouth

Categories: Consultation Response

Dear Sir,

I am writing to register my objection to the proposed Aquind Interconnector project and the planned route through Portsmouth up to Lovedean in Hampshire. This project has already been rejected by the previous Secretary of State, Kwasi Kwarteng, yet Aquind persist with their plan.

I object to this project for the following reasons.

Portsmouth is the second most densely populated city in the UK. It is also an island with 3 ways to get in and out of the city by road. This project would cause years of major disruption to traffic, as one route would effectively be out of action. This would cause damage to the local economy as well as putting even more strain on the local road infrastructure and increasing levels of pollution.

The proposed route goes through parks, allotments and a nature reserve. The laying of the cables will cause damage and will disturb these green spaces which are much loved and well used by local residents. To drill and dig trenches will upset the local wildlife, including the protected Brent Geese which migrate from Siberia every winter to Langstone Harbour. Once disturbed it is highly unlikely that these birds will return to this area.

The proposed route goes through an area of the city which is known to contain toxic waste.

Aquind have no experience of a project of this size and scale and therefore have no track record of success. The initiation of this project was handled very badly by Aquind with threats of compulsory purchase orders on properties and threats made to local Councillors and MPs. Their business practices need to be carefully scrutinised. The owners of this company should cause concerns about national security.

Finally, the proposal to import energy from France is surely going against the policy to supply 100% sustainable green energy in the UK. The war in Ukraine has proved the importance of the UK becoming energy self-sufficient and we should not be considering this scheme which the French also reject.

For all of the reasons that I have listed above, I urge the government to, once again, firmly reject the Aquind Interconnector project.

Yours faithfully,

Katherine Sweeney

[REDACTED]

