

Atkins, Caelan

From: thelavers3 [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 June 2023 12:24
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Aquind Interconnector

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Late submission

I am writing to raise my concerns regarding the proposed Portsmouth interconnector site.

This project is unanimously opposed by MPs & councillors of all political persuasions along this area of the South Coast, for well documented reasons. The French refused the project in 2021 and their refusal remains valid. If there is no landfall in France why would you give permission to build in UK, against the wishes of the community as expressed by our elected representatives?

There are sufficient interconnectors existing or planned. They add up to 19.5 GW when the government in their paper asked for 18 GW by 2030. So one has to ask why capacity, over & above that specified in our own government's estimation of requirements, is being contemplated? Especially in light of the disruption & environmental destruction it will involve?

I am most concerned by the background of those behind this company, one of whom was at pains to keep his involvement secret & whose previous involvement in Russian infrastructure projects seems questionable. One has to ask whether such a company is an appropriate &/or capable organisation, to run & manage a project like this in our area?

The harm it is likely to do in terms of traffic chaos, air pollution & damage to our local environment far outweighs any possible benefits, especially as government estimates seem to suggest UK energy needs will already be met elsewhere.

Portsmouth is a large & busy city. Opportunities for engaging with the natural environment are limited & precious for inhabitants of all ages. This project will impact negatively on those opportunities & cause significant damage to the environment & the wildlife it sustains, to the detriment of the local population.

A feasibility study by NGET was carried out in 2014 to find a connection point into the grid. This feasibility study has not been seen by anyone but Aquind. The Judge during the High Court Judicial Review and the Secretary of State had asked for access. This is an out-dated study now, 9 years later & why has nobody else had access to it? This is not suggestive of the level of openness & transparency we are entitled to expect of those wishing to undertake a huge project of this nature, in our local community.

Should the minutes of any meeting between Aquind Ltd, NGET and any other party involved not be made available? Indeed, should not this out-dated connection decision be revisited?

This application was refused initially. In my view, for the above reasons, that decision should stand. Overturning it is unnecessary & doing so will be to the detriment of the people of Portsmouth & the surrounding area, for no significant benefit, apart from those that will accrue to the owners of Aquind.

Mrs Penny Laver

Local Resident

Sent from my Galaxy