

Atkins, Caelan

From: Andrii Seleznov [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 July 2023 14:01
To: Aquind Interconnector
Subject: Non-transparent behaviour of Aquind

Categories: Consultation Response

Good morning,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the transparency and due diligence of Aquind Limited in relation to their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors, as well as the company's eligibility to bid for building the Aquind Interconnector project.

Today, on the deadline of July 28, I would like to bring attention to several unresolved issues surrounding the Aquind Interconnector project:

1. **The Missing Feasibility Study:** The absence of the feasibility study conducted in 2014/2015 raises questions about the thoroughness and reliability of the project's planning process.
2. **Mannington Feasibility:** I am interested to know how the feasibility of Mannington, as indicated by NGET/NGESO, impacts the overall project and the communities involved.
3. **Inclusion of Fibre Optic Cable:** The allowance of a Fibre Optic Cable in a project of nationally significant infrastructure raises concerns about potential risks and impacts on the surrounding areas.
4. **Necessity of the Interconnector:** there is no further information on the necessity and urgency of the Aquind Interconnector, especially in relation to its potential impacts on local communities and the environment.
5. **Currently, the companies with such ambitious Net Zero plans as Aquind, are invited to demonstrate their Sustainability Reporting to the public in accordance with TCFD or other frameworks.**

This reporting has to include an assessment of Environmental, Social and Governance factors to prove that Aquind is genuinely a responsible and sustainable player in the UK energy market.

Aquind has not demonstrated any effort to maintain this reputation and constantly shows only a negative balance in their official documents available within the UK legislative framework.

As Aquind has disclosed on page 2 of their confirmation statement dated 30 June 2023, their financing is fully provided by a related company, Project Finance Group S.A (registered in Luxembourg under the number B251839), and a parent company, Aquind Energy S.a.r.l. (registered in Luxembourg under the number B229924). Project Finance Group has over 80M EUR in assets and, in accordance with their Abridged Balance Sheet dated 10 May 2023, finished the year with a total loss of 231,445.21 EUR. How can these companies serve as sustainable businesses in any nationally important projects in the UK?

Additionally, there are concerns about their involvement in donations to the ruling political party to lobby their own interests.

This is a list of only a few concerns. Transparency and due diligence are of utmost importance in any nationally significant infrastructure project, however, Aquind demonstrates only a lobbistic approach and is trying to play an unfair game to get permission. What will be next - nobody knows but the UK future is under threat because of Aquind.

Sincerely,
Andrii