From: GIBB, Nicolas
To: EEMA MGove

Subject: DEFRA - Constituent of Nick Gibb MP (our ref NG25865)

Date: 24 December 2021 09:42:09

FAO: The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Dear Michael

I have received the email below from my constituent, Philip Baker of 69 Mead Lane, Bognor Regis, PO22 8AW regarding his concerns about the AQUIND Interconnector between the South Coast of England and Normandy in France.

I should be grateful if you could look into the concerns raised and let me have your comments in due course.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Nick

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP for Bognor Regis & Littlehampton

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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From: Philip <

Sent: 15 December 2021 13:19

To: GIBB, Nicolas <

Subject: Letter from your constituent Philip

Philip



Phone:

Email:

Tuesday 14 December 2021

Dear Nick,

Despite my strong inclination towards Socialism, I would ask that you investigate, (with some digression), the AQUIND subsea Interconnector issue at Portsmouth. to determine if there is a National Security Risk in view of the sponsor.

Having spent my final 30 years, (1988-2018), supplying HV & MV

insulated components to all the UK ESI OEMs, I have some detailed knowledge of the Sellindge Link (IFA1) and others (BritNed, Nemo, IFA2 & NSL) and undeclared. Having been actively involved in the supply of parts as a leading manufacturer and equipment inspections as an Insulation expert.

These cable links provide useful short term energy supplies to the UK, (which is currently Base Load deficient), and are essential to our current needs.

However, they are vulnerable to subsea damage and are potentially unprotected should an enemy decide to cut them off. (as was the case on the IFA1 with a Russian cargo ship some years ago).

This was not well publicised, but it was a clear indication that such cables are at high risk if targeted as I believe they did.

That's partly why they sent their aircraft carrier down the channel to locate ALL our under sea assets.

The HVDC sites are carefully chosen to link at critical places on the existing UK Grid

Portsmouth is in an unusually weak supply position in Grid terms especially after the closure Fowey Station and the delay in a further Nuclear station on the Dungeness site, and although the Portsmouth Naval base has some self preservation, in need, it would be at the expense of the city and surrounding area.

The proposal is to connect to the Love Dean 275kV Grid sub NE of Waterloo, maybe to support demand in the Portsmouth area because of its current vulnerability.

In my view, this is a classic security issue, where a gas turbine generator station should be built for standby use, (many of the existing sites which are being used for Base Load and with which I disagree, as this has made us reliant on Arab gas as we were once reliant on their oil, and we know what blackmail they exerted on the UK during the Israeli/Arab wars of the 60s & 70s)

However, setting aside this operational selection issue, of more importance is what can come with these subsea cables. They always have a telecom link to monitor any breakage or potential failure and that's an essential requirement.

The deeper concern is what else can be brought in and one hopes this has always been a matter of security monitoring on all the existing European based connectors.

We don't want to find a Berlin type incident in the UK, where another national is hacked into our other telecom systems, unknown.

There is a close proximity between the HV grid system and Telecoms and any unauthorised and undetected interfusion could lead to devastating damage to many other signals that are transmitted in both systems. Therefore, every supplier should be monitored most thoroughly in terms of National Security to prevent the penetration of our secure systems both power and telecoms.

It is this matter, that is of the uttermost importance and not the issue of a cable.

Although again, my view, it is a weak decision to rely on external sources of power when National Security is the issue and Portsmouth IS our prime Naval fighting base.

The continuing penetration of potential Enemy influences is to be guarded against and particularly when they are given a shore base in the UK.

I also have grave concerns for the long term influence of all the interconnectors, as in times of UK crisis, they are potentially a serious source of political Blackmail against the UK.

Its of great concern that Dominic Cumming spent serious years in Russia and that others who have no wealth but seek it out at every opportunity are ready made spy potential, as their basic instinct of greed increases with reducing morality.

Please Nick be a good Patriot and look diligently and with disgression into this is and ensure there is no infusion of Russian influences in our political parties that would produce a weak decision.

Should y	you seek additional information I can be contacted on	
	or by return at my email.	

Yours sincerely, Philip Baker MIET. BSI (PEL36 reviewer), EIA Business Associate Member

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