



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Energy Infrastructure Planning
Department for Energy Security
& Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

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To:
AQUIND Limited
All Interested Parties

Our ref: EN020022

26 January 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you are aware, following an Order of the High Court made on 24 January 2023, the decision dated 20 January 2022 to refuse the application by AQUIND Limited for development consent for the proposed AQUIND Interconnector Project was quashed. The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero is now responsible for the re-determination of the application. Further information was requested from Interested Parties and a record of those requests, and the responses received, are available on the National Infrastructure website.

Given the Secretary of State's quasi-judicial role in taking the decision on this application for development consent, it would not be appropriate to comment on specific matters related to this proposal. However, the Secretary of State does wish to provide an update in relation to the re-determination of this decision.

Although no deadline has been set for making the re-determination, the Secretary of State would like to explain why more time is needed to consider the application. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has contacted this Department requesting additional time so that it can prepare substantive representations on concerns regarding the proposed AQUIND project.

The Secretary of State considers that it would not be appropriate to take a decision on the application until the MOD has considered its position and submitted its representations and this Department has had time to consider the information presented. At present, it is also not appropriate to estimate how much more time is required, as this will depend on the nature and content of the representations put forward by MOD.

The Energy Infrastructure Planning team will continue to liaise with the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State to ensure that the website is updated accordingly and to keep all parties informed of the situation as it progresses.

The Secretary of State thanks all parties for their patience whilst all the information available is analysed to reach robust conclusions on planning issues and to make an informed re-determination decision. The Secretary of State reiterates that she is aware of the importance of making planning decisions as soon as is practicable.

Yours sincerely,



John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero