

From: [Jack Thomson](#)
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: AQUIND interconnector
Date: 05 March 2024 19:14:43

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Dear Sirs,

I am writing to object in the strongest terms to the AQUIND planning application. This application has correctly been rejected previously and I urge you to do so again. The very premise of the plan is flawed. Building more interconnectors will not be of benefit to the UK. There are plenty already and the fact is that being more heavily dependent on French nuclear power puts us at a political disadvantage, especially given that the French had power outages themselves recently and threatened to cut power to the Channel Islands when it suited them.

The French have also rejected the proposal thus far, we should do the same.

The proposed route is entirely inappropriate and far better solutions exist.

The disruption to Portsmouth and its surrounding area will be substantial. The route will cause years of travel disruption.

This will further damage the economy of the city in an already difficult economic climate. As a resident of Portsmouth I can assure you that this will impact the air quality and mental health of the city's inhabitants as the excess traffic congestion and loss of access to local green spaces will affect a great proportion of the local population.

It is also going to drastically impact the local environment. Farlington Marshes and Langstone Harbour are home/respite to a huge number of native and migrating species that this project will disrupt.

The area of Milton Common is reclaimed land which was formerly a landfill site, digging through it would be like plowing through a veritable landmine field of variable toxic waste. Recklessly dangerous.

AQUIND is an entirely unsuitable company to be undertaking this project. They have no record of successfully achieving a project of this nature, or indeed any project at all. One of the directors has previously been linked to mismanagement of funds on similar work in Russia.

If you truly believe that the UK needs this interconnector (we do not, see above) then it should be put out to tender for British companies to bid on or at least to companies which have a proven track record with such projects. I'm confident that another bidder would choose a less destructive route.

It's also very suspicious that AQUIND have opted for the chosen route. Given the need for compulsory purchases of the land, has sufficient scrutiny been given to any further plans to develop the land they might have once they've purchased it? Much of it is common land that should be in the ownership of the city.

The data cables which are very slyly squeezed into this planning application are nothing short of a threat to national security. The owners of AQUIND appear to have direct links to the Kremlin. Surely, they cannot possibly be involved with this aspect of construction.

It is saddening to learn that at every stage of planning that AQUIND have passed this far, they have been given the green light to proceed by members of the Conservative Party who have directly received financial contributions from the company's owners.

I would think that given the current political crisis the government is in, they would wish to do everything they can to distance themselves from accusations of further corruption and wrongdoings.

As a lay person, I consider that the piffling £3.15 per year saving on energy bills that Aquind has advised, to be an insult in the face of the literal destruction this project would

cause.

The only possible response you can have to this application is to reject it. Anything else will be considered highly morally and potentially legally objectionable. We will not give up this fight and will pursue all courses available to us to see it through.

Yours faithfully, Jack Thomson.