



## Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	AQUIND interconnector
<b>File reference</b>	EN010085
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Date</b>	7 September 2018
<b>Meeting with</b>	AQUIND Limited
<b>Venue</b>	Temple Quay House
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Inception meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### **Summary of key points discussed and advice given:**

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which Developers (or others) could rely.

### **Background to the Project and Work Undertaken to Date**

The Developer presented project information, giving details of the three principal elements of the project (U.K. onshore, marine and French onshore).

The Development Consent Order (DCO) application would involve construction of a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station, the laying of underground HVDC and High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) cables, construction of a land/sea transition joint at Eastney, Portsmouth and Laying of four HVDC subsea cables for connection to the French element of the project. The project will require works to connect to the existing National Grid at the Lovedean substation, Hampshire. The interconnector is proposed to transmit up to 2000 Megawatts of electricity.

### **Compulsory Acquisition**

The Developer advised that compulsory acquisition will be required to deliver the onshore underground cable aspect of the development. The corridor route and order limit requirements are being refined; land registry work is being undertaken.

## **Exiting the European Union**

The Inspectorate asked what the potential impacts of exiting the European Union may have on the proposed development. The Developer advised that the economics of the project will still allow it to go ahead and that there were no perceived regulatory issues in relation to interconnectors.

## **Environmental Assessment**

The Developer explained that they have received Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping opinions from the local authorities and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), prior to receiving the s35 Direction under the Planning Act 2008 for this proposal. The Inspectorate advised that although scoping under the Planning Act 2008 isn't mandatory, by not undertaking a scoping exercise with the Inspectorate, the Developer will be unaware of the Inspectorate's view on specific issues, and the Inspectorate may in some instances come to a different view to the local authorities or MMO. The Developer will consider whether to submit a scoping request to the Inspectorate.

The Inspectorate explained that they do not undertake a full review of the draft Preliminary Environmental Information consultation documents, however it can provide s51 advice in response to specific queries.

## **Projects of Common Interest**

The Inspectorate asked that the Developer submit a schedule of consents across both the UK and France, to assist with the Inspectorate's obligations under the Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy Infrastructure EU237/2013 (TEN-E Regulation).

The Developer explained that they have undertaken the majority of their required consultation under the TEN-E Regulation.

## **Draft Documents Review**

The Developer confirmed that it was intending to submit draft versions of the DCO, Explanatory Memorandum, Book of Reference and a sample plans in Q3 2019. A draft Habitats Regulations Assessment may potentially be submitted later.

## **Anticipated Submission Date**

In light of the detailed responses received during consultation undertaken to date, the Developer is considering a number of changes to the design of the project. The Developer confirmed that the anticipated submission date is late Q3 2019. The Inspectorate acknowledged this and advised the Developer to build in sufficient time for the Inspectorate's draft document review.

## **Specific decisions / follow up required?**

The Developer will submit a schedule of consents across both the UK and France, to assist with the Inspectorate's obligations under the TEN-E Regulation.