

From: [Robin Whitting](#)
To: [Aquind Interconnector](#)
Subject: Aquind
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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing this at this time as we are still awaiting a decision as to whether this scheme will be allowed to go ahead or not, to add my name to the already long list of worried objectors you have heard from, opposing this unbelievably ill considered scheme. The reasons are many, so, for clarity, I will summarise what for me are really the most important points.

I understand the need for future clean energy to meet our 2030 targets, but importing French Nuclear electricity does not fulfil any of these targets, being neither clean nor green, and leaving us vulnerable to the whims of a foreign power. When France threatened to turn off the power cable feeding the island of Jersey, we all became aware that France was capable of holding a country to ransom over energy. When the people involved in this scheme on the other side of the channel in France have already given it the definitive no, (or “NON”), I wholeheartedly believe that huge resources being considered for this project should actually be re-channelled into developing effective local green technologies here in the UK.

The proposed route, on which no local opinion has been allowed at local or council level, is planned to be dug through areas of currently dormant, toxic waste, which will have to be safely dealt with; is proposed to cut through the edge of Langstone Harbour, a major site of special scientific interest and a renowned wildlife reserve; will cause major travel disruption on the island of Portsmouth, which is densely populated and suffers frequently from gridlock, on the major routes in and out of the city, and already suffers from such high levels of air pollution that the government have demanded action from the council.

The proposed route affects sensitive areas for wildlife, removes trees, many of which are protected, cuts through allotments, sports fields and open green spaces which are few and far between in the city. All of this for an unspecified period of time.

A further concern is the company applying for this permission has no expertise or even trading history in this field and has now applied to link in a fibre-optic data communications cable to this scheme, something disallowed under DCO terms, and almost certainly, given that we re talking about digging up a large chunk of Portsmouth, home to a sizeable part of the British Navy, something which could quickly become a major threat to the UK's National Security at the click of a computer hacker's mouse.

The company Aquind has also a documented record of making donations to quite a number of members of the conservative party which really concerns those of us allowed absolutely no say in this application, as it does not show those party recipients, or their party, in an unbiased light. Above all, these donations may well have the effect of altering the allegiance of many of the property-owning rank and file voters, faced with compulsory purchase orders in this region, who are also, understandably, opposed to this madcap scheme.

I trust you will read and consider these points while making your decision.

**Robin Whitting
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