



**OPEN LETTER TO THE OWNERS AND DIRECTORS OF AQUIND LIMITED  
FROM THE PEOPLE OF PORTSMOUTH**

Dear Sirs

The case for the Aquind Interconnector has collapsed since your initial application for a Development Consent Order (DCO), so we are formally, and in good faith, asking you to withdraw your application for the DCO. Withdrawing now would be in the best interests of your business; the environment of Portsmouth, the South Downs and northern France; our democracy and our national interest.

We are asking you to recognise the fact that the entire city of Portsmouth and 50 French towns affected by the route are united against Aquind. There is now widespread agreement across the political spectrum that the environmental damage, years of pollution, traffic chaos and loss of precious green spaces and public amenities that would be caused by the interconnector building work simply cannot be justified. To put it bluntly, it is not your city to destroy.

As well as being unwanted, we are asking you to acknowledge that the Aquind Interconnector is unnecessary: the economics of your proposals to transmit nuclear power from France to sell to the National Grid have been undermined by two major developments. Firstly, British government policy is now to invest in renewable and cost-effective sources of electricity such as wind and tidal power within the UK, so your project risks becoming an expensive white elephant for your backers. Secondly, the 14 other interconnectors already live or approved will meet our future energy needs long before Aquind would ever come online, making your own project redundant.

Regardless of the Secretary of State's vacillation on the DCO decision, the city's opposition to your plans is both united and implacable, and it would be in your best interests to withdraw now. Withdrawing would go some way to salvaging the reputation of your business, which has suffered from accusations of cash for influence, targeted donations, cronyism and the revelations in the Pandora Papers of the source of Mr Fedotov's offshore funds. Both Aquind and the Conservative Party have denied that your campaign of donations will have any influence on ministers. If this is true, you can prove it now by withdrawing the application for the DCO and restoring faith in our democracy.

Finally, we are appealing to you as British citizens to act in the national interest. Control of significant energy and communications infrastructure assets should not be in the hands of a private business, deep in debt, with no experience of large-scale engineering projects,

Community action to stop the AQUIND interconnector

[www.stopaquind.com](http://www.stopaquind.com)



beholden to unknown investors hidden by offshore trusts and at the mercy of a foreign power. We are asking you to withdraw your application now and put an end to this disastrous project once and for all, before Portsmouth is engulfed in chaos and our environment irreparably harmed.

Please consider our proposal carefully – we invite you to our city to debate your position in public.

Viola Langley and Paula Savage  
Co-founders, Let's Stop Aquind

#### Signatories

Let's Stop Aquind

Non a Aquind

ClIr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE

Stephen Morgan MP

Sebastian Jumel MP (French National Assembly)

Yoann Collin, Mayor of Tourville sur Arques

Gauthier Cuvelier, Adjunct Mayor, Conseil Municipal de Gueutteville

Stéphane Bidault, Conseil Municipal de Varneville- Bretteville

Friends of the Earth Portsmouth

Green Drinks Portsmouth

Greenpeace Portsmouth

Keep Milton Green

Let Pompey Breathe

Milton Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Zero Waste Portsmouth