Ofgem awards the operation licence for UK-France power interconnector

15/09/2016

UK energy watchdog Ofgem has gave the greenlight for a 1.1 billion pound ($1.45 billion) undersea and underground electricity cable linking Hampshire with Normandy in France.

As a result, the developer Aquind Limited was awarded a licence to operate the 2,000-MW UK-France interconnector. The permission means that the privately-funded cable will begin importing power from 2022 from northern France’s nuclear-powered electricity grid to Southern England, being able to supply up to four million homes. The project is aimed to avert an electricity shortfall by the early 2020s as coal plants shut down and indigenous North Sea oil and gas production falls. It is also expected that by importing electricity from France, the Aquind interconnector could contribute to diminish energy prices in the UK and reduce Britain’s per capita carbon footprint. The project is completely funded by private investment without any government subsidies, and is expected to create up to 500 jobs across the supply chain during the construction phase.

However it occurs to me that the UK is becoming more and more reliant on energy sources from other countries. The question is are we setting the UK up for a fall sometime in the future?