

VISION: By 2020 the UK electricity industry will have delivered a sustained improvement in health and safety performance by applying and influencing best practice approaches utilised in the top performing sectors in the UK and beyond.

Announcements 2016

Powering Improvement Workshops and Events in 2016

2016 was used to focus on '**managing occupational ill health risks**' as part of the electricity industries **Health** and safety strategy 'Powering Improvement'.

A series of events were held in support of this initiative particularly by Energy UK and Energy Networks Association Member organisations and Powering Improvement Stakeholders such as the trade unions and HSE with a direct focus on occupational health.

SHE Manager Group Seminars

Energy Networks Association (ENA) Safety, Health and Environmental Managers Group held a seminar on Managing Occupational Health in February 2016 to discuss the potential outputs for the year and discuss how to further support the initiative. ENA's Occupational Health Committee put together a leaflet in March 2016 that was published and handed out to all levels of the member Network electricity companies. The purpose of the leaflet was to illustrate the aims and objectives of the 2016 theme but most importantly to illustrate and recognise the individual champions of Occupational Health Initiatives in the separate organisations. [Please click here to view the leaflet.](#)

Industry Powering Improvement Workshop

ENA hosted an industry workshop in London on the 19th October 2016 as part of the 2016 Theme of 'Managing Occupational Health Risks'. The workshop was attended by around 40 industry people from ENA & Energy UK Member Companies, Trade Unions (Prospect, Unite, Unison and GMB) and the HSE. There were a number of presentations given at the workshop including Deborah Jamieson (Department for Work and Pensions), Geoff Earl (Director of SHE at Northern Powergrid and the 2016 PI Champion), Anna Rowland (National Grid), Stephanie Schreiber (Business In The Community), Geoff Cox (Health and Safety Executive) and Dr Greg Irons (Occupational Health Advisory Group). Please [click here](#) to view a report following the event.

Utility Week H&S Conference

The occupational health and wellbeing of employees in the electricity sector is a priority for companies which must be approached with the same importance as safety, according to a senior industry spokesman at the Utility Week Health and Safety Conference. Geoff Earl, Director of Safety Health and Environment at Northern Powergrid was addressing the conference as the 2016 Champion of the

'Powering Improvement' strategy; the industry wide partnership which has brought together electricity companies through Energy Networks Association and Energy UK, trade unions and the Health and Safety Executive to deliver sustained improvement in health and safety performance. Since 2010 Powering Improvement has focused the attention of industry on a number of key annual themes which contribute to a successful health and safety strategy, with the 2016 theme promoting occupational ill health to the top of the agenda for participants.

Setting out the importance of the issue, Mr Earl told delegates that across the industry working days lost to sickness and ill health far exceed those from accidents. Collaboration is at the heart of the Powering Improvement strategy and this year has brought together a wide range of stakeholders to build the case for occupational health improvement in an industry that has seen significant progress in safety performance.

A workshop on 'Managing Occupational Ill Health' considered interventions and control measures that should form part of a mature response to the health risks within the electricity industry to ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of all employees in a healthy workplace. These have fed into the design of a Journey Roadmap which was presented at the Utility Week Conference and will form the basis of the Powering Improvement approach going forward.

Powering Improvement Champion Geoff Earl told the conference: "The health and safety of employees is a priority in our industry, because every employee and contractor has the right to go home uninjured and in good health at the end of each working day. Our mission, along with our Trade Union and HSE partners, is to deliver practical outputs to help member companies elevate the Health agenda to the status of Health with a capital 'H' to sit alongside Safety with a capital 'S'".

Health and Safety Executive Launch Event

HSE Chair Martin Temple opens the Help GB Work Well 'Commitments' event at the Imperial War Museum in November 2016. The event celebrated over 100 commitments made by industry, unions and other groups to play their part to improve health and safety in their workplaces and industries. Powering Improvement was illustrated as an example of 'Acting Together' and 'Tackling Ill Health'. [You can read more about the commitments here.](#)

Company Workshops

Many of the Electricity Network Operators have been carrying out a number of contractor engagement workshops throughout 2015 & 2016, with a focus on Occupational Health. Not only do effective health and safety messages get infiltrated in to the business through employee engagement, but it also allows initiatives to cross over to the Contractors who carry out a substantial amount of work on the Networks.

Electricity Industry Conference Promotes Importance of Employee Health and Well-Being

The 27th annual Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Management Conference has gathered in Belfast this week, to address key health and safety issues in the UK electricity industry and promote employee health and well-being as an important priority.

The conference, organised by Energy Networks Association (ENA), seeks to foster co-operation between industry stakeholders and promote best practice in managing safety, health and environment challenges. This year senior speakers from across the sector will focus attention on the health and well-being of employees in the industry with discussions on occupational stress, nutrition, shift working and approaches to mental health. There will also be dedicated sessions on environment, road safety and fatigue and core safety issues.

ENA Chief Executive David Smith said:

“The well-established history of the SHE Conference demonstrates the collaboration between companies, employees and the Health and Safety Executive which has delivered a significant improvement in the electricity industry’s health and safety performance since privatisation.

In our sector, where physical risks tend to be apparent to employers and employees, I am pleased that this year’s conference will address a number of health risks, such as workplace stress and mental health. Whilst they may be less visible they are no less important.”



Nicholas Tarrant, Managing Director at NIE Networks (As pictured above) said:

“We’re delighted to be hosting the Safety, Health & Environment conference in Belfast for the first time in almost 20 years and welcoming utility colleagues from the UK and Ireland. At NIE Networks safety is one of our values. We have business priorities which need to change and be dynamic but safety must always remain

constant. These forums are important ways to share knowledge so that we can constantly improve our safety performance for the benefit of our customers, employees and contractors.”

Kevin Coyne, National Coordinating Officer for the union Unite said:

“The greatest health challenge to the industry at present is workplace stress. It is a major problem for our members and we are delighted to see that ENA is committed to taking on that challenge. We now need to see the clear evidence that action on workplace stress is at the top of the industry’s and every energy company’s, health agenda.”

Keith Morrison from the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland said:

“Electricity compares favourably to other sectors in health and safety performance, and works hard to save lives and prevent injury of employees, contractors and the public.

Occupational health is often overlooked, and I am delighted to see the focus that this conference has placed on issues like mental health and work related stress.”



From left: Geoff Earl (Director of SHE at Northern Powergrid and the 2016 PI Champion), Sara McClintock, (NIE Networks), Mike Leppard (Senior SHE Adviser ENA), Jane Eccleston (SHE Manager ENW), Jamie Reeve (SHE Adviser ENA), Hazel Joynes (WPD), Kevin McDowell (Head of SHE, NIE Networks)

Asset Management / Corporate Memory workshops

As well as specific workshops dedicated to the theme on occupational health a number of other workshops continue to be carried out on Asset Management and Corporate Memory, an area that will be a specific focus in 2017.

Scottish Power

A successful corporate memory and asset management workshop was held in Hoylake on the 22nd March and Cumbernauld 23rd March hosted by Scottish Powers. The Workshops were attended by 50+ Scottish Power staff, ranging from Senior Health and Safety Managers, Operational Managers, Directors, Trade Unions, and health and safety representatives. The workshop was a continuation of workshops being held at all of the ENA Electricity Members Companies with a focus on Corporate Memory and Asset Management. Scottish Power recorded both workshops delivered by Peter McCormick (Powering Improvement Lead), Jamie Reeve & Mike Leppard (ENA), Bill Bennett and Doug Wilson (Scottish Power), and have since used to footage to roll out across the wider Scottish Power and Iberdrola business areas.

ESB Networks

A successful corporate memory and asset management workshop was held at ESB Networks in Dublin on the 2nd June 2016. The Workshop was attended by 50+ ESB Networks' staff, ranging from Senior Health and Safety Managers, Operational Managers, Directors, Trade Unions, and health and safety representatives. ESB Networks also shared the lessons learnt from an incident that had occurred recently where 2 poles had broken at Portarlinton leaving a live conductor hanging low over a road, fortunately no-one was harmed, however Peter McCormick informed delegates of a similar incident where the outcome was more severe and member of the public tragically lost their life.

A number of other case studies were looked at during the workshop with a number of learning points identified, re-enforcing the key messages of following the right processes and procedures to ensure the workforce and members of the public are able to go home safe and healthy after each working day.

Northern Powergrid

The last workshop took place at Northern Powergrid on the 24th November at the **Leeds Marriott Hotel**, hosted by Northern Powergrid. Peter McCormick, Mike Leppard (ENA), Geoff Earl (NPg), Lee Wallace (WPD) and Richard Gough (SSEN) provided presentations at the event along with other Northern Powergrid colleagues (Len Tweedie, Mick Hickling, Nick Gill & Richard Bowers). Over 100 Northern Powergrid members of Staff attended the event, this included Directors, Managers, Operatives, Trade Union Representatives, Engineers, and many apprentices / newly recruited.