

National HESAC – Electricity Industry Health & Safety Committee [July 2020]

Aim and objectives:

National HESAC is the body established within the Electricity Industry (generation, transmission, distribution and supply) for the consideration of health, safety and operational environmental issues where appropriate (i.e. where they impact on health and safety). It has the following aims and objectives:

- To oversee and support the Electricity Industry's H&S strategy; Powering Improvement;
- To oversee and support individual initiatives set out in the Powering Improvement annual strategy
- To propose Industry working groups or task forces as required.
- To promote health and safety throughout the Electricity Industry;
- To review the application of existing health and safety legislation;
- To oversee draft national legislation and European policy proposals; and
- To provide a forum for HSE to raise issues of operational policy that may impact on the Electricity Industry.

National HESAC shall develop as a mechanism for improving the sharing of H&S information across the whole electricity sector and shall:

- Receive information on national, European and international H&S developments and promulgate good practice; and
- Submit joint responses to HSE (and other government departments) consultative documents in appropriate cases.

Where agreed, National HESAC shall receive presentations from speakers external to the Electricity Industry.

Minutes of meetings shall be disseminated as widely as possible and placed on the National HESAC webpages.

Terms of Reference

The primary role of National HESAC is to provide a forum for companies, trade unions and key stakeholders to influence and promote improved standards of health and safety within the Electricity Industry. This will include:

- The implementation, delivery and monitoring of the Electricity Industry H&S Strategy *Powering Improvement*;
- The identification of issues of significance, in particular new hazards and risks, and sharing and exchanging of relevant information;
- Making recommendations to HSE and other government bodies as appropriate on relevant matters;
- Producing an annual report highlighting outputs and achievements; and
- Developing industry guidance as appropriate.

Membership

The committee shall be tripartite with representation drawn from companies, trade unions and HSE. Representation is as detailed at Appendix 1.

The committee shall have the authority to expand membership if a need is identified, provided that there is agreement of all three tripartite components.

Named individuals shall be formally appointed as members (with named alternates) to encourage consistency and improve debate. List of members and alternates can be found in Appendix 2

Those attending should have authority to make decisions.

Governance

National HESAC will formally liaise with the ENA SHE Committee, Energy UK H&S Leaders Group and company HESACs;

Occupational Health shall be a standing agenda item. Meetings of the committee shall be regarded as quorate for the purposes of making decisions when there is representation present from at least four individual ENA and/or Energy UK companies, four representatives from trade unions and a representative from HSE;

The committee shall be empowered to establish working parties and ad hoc groups as needs are identified. In setting up any such body the committee will ensure that it is established with clear terms of reference and deliverable objectives.

Chair

The chair shall rotate between the employers and the trade unions. The term of the chair is two years.

Joint secretaries

ENA, Energy UK and the trade unions shall nominate a joint secretary whose role is to develop a draft agenda for each meeting to be agreed by the chair and to progress actions between formal meetings.

Secretariat

ENA and Energy UK shall provide secretariat on a rotating annual basis.

Finance

The work of the Committee shall be co-funded by ENA and Energy UK.

Frequency

The committee shall meet not less than three times each year at the ENA offices and the Energy UK offices rotating on an annual basis, or other venues as agreed.

Appendix 1

National HESAC Membership

- All ENA (transmission and distribution) companies are entitled to become formal members;
- All Energy UK (generation and supply/retail) companies are entitled to become formal members;
- The trade unions (Prospect, Unite, GMB and Unison) are entitled to 2 members each in addition to the Chair and Joint Se. retary. Further members may attend as agreed;
- Health & Safety Executive

By invitation on an as need basis: The Secretariat will be responsible for inviting these organisations .

- Contractors' associations
- EU Skills
- G+ (offshore wind)
- Renewable UK (Wind, Wave & Tidal)
- Safety On (onshore wind)
- Solar Trade Association
- Ofgem
- Others as agreed

Appendix 2

HESAC Member List

Electricity Company Members

Organisation
Centrica
EDF Energy
Electricity North West
ESB
National Grid
Northern Ireland Electricity Networks
Northern Powergrid
OVO Energy
RWE
ScottishPower Energy Networks
Scottish Power
Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
SSE
Western Power Distribution
UK Power Networks
Uniper

Trade Union Members

Organisation
GMB
Prospect
Unison
Unite

Others

HSE
ENA
Energy UK