

Announcements 2015

Powering Improvement Launches its Second Phase 2015-2020

An event on the 4th March 2015 in the House of Commons has marked the launch of the second phase of the electricity industry's successful health and safety initiative 'Powering Improvement'. The five year Powering Improvement Strategy was first launched in 2010 and brought together electricity companies, trade unions and the Health and Safety Executive in an effort to make the UK electricity industry a world leader in occupational health and safety. Shadow Minister for Employment Stephen Timms MP spoke at the Parliamentary launch and stated that "The Labour Party warmly welcomes the Powering Improvement Initiative. Labour is committed to the promotion of health and safety at work, as an integral to good management practice as well as a vital protection for employees. A partnership approach is the right way forward; a safe and well trained workforce benefits employee and employer alike.

Steve Johnson, Chief Executive of regional power network Electricity North West said, "Our industry has worked hard to deliver a significant improvement in health and safety performance since privatisation. Powering Improvement has made an important contribution to that effort, and I am pleased that it is being renewed to drive further progress over the next five years."

Mike Clancy, General Secretary of the trade union Prospect said, "Health and safety in the energy sector is seen by Prospect as a beacon of excellence: unions and employers genuinely seeking to collaborate in raising awareness and improving standards. Powering Improvement, a campaign now entering its second 5-year phase, is pivotal to delivering that commitment. Such is its value, HSE continues to resource very welcome support and input. This is self-regulation at its best."

Samantha Peace, HSE Director, said, "When, in 2009, we published the strategy 'The Health and Safety of Great Britain \\ Be Part of the Solution', the electricity sector's Powering Improvement response was exactly the type of industry initiative we had in mind. I am very encouraged the industry so clearly recognises the business and social benefits of good health and safety, and I am pleased to lay a part in keeping the momentum going as the second phase of Powering Improvement is launched".



The electricity industry's 26th annual Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Management Conference has this week heard how safety must be priority number one throughout every level of the business.

At the conference in Bristol, organised by Energy Networks Association, speakers from across the sector advocated the vital role of leadership in addressing the evolving nature of safety in an industry with many dangers. The health and wellbeing of the workforce was also recognised as a major focus area for businesses. Robert Symons, Chief Executive of the conference co-hosts Western Power Distribution said:

"There is no higher priority than the safety of our staff, contractors and the general public who could be affected by our works. Risks are always with us in our working lives and it is how we deal with those risks, both as individuals and as a business that will ensure our safe return from work at the end of every day."

Jane Willis, Director of Cross-cutting Interventions at the Health and Safety Executive spoke about the evolution of their role and the new approaches taken:

"Looking back over the 40 years since HSE was first established the organisation has certainly changed, but our commitment to being an effective regulator and reducing injury and ill-health at work has not. We are proud of our reputation as a world-class regulator and know that we have to continue to evolve as an organisation to ensure we remain fit for purpose for the next 40 years.

"For Britain to continue to be one of the safest and healthiest places to work in the world, we need to continuously improve and modernise our approaches to ensure they are appropriate and efficient, whilst maintaining the high standards of protection."

Garry Graham, Deputy General Secretary of Prospect said:

"This conference is an opportunity to celebrate what we do well and identify what we can do better. Our experience has shown that by employers, trade unions and the Health and Safety Executive working in partnership that real progress can be made- and supporting the highest standards of health and safety is not only a moral imperative but good business sense.

"We ask our people to do extraordinary things, sometimes in the most difficult of circumstances to bring heat and light to homes, hospitals, schools and businesses across the UK. There is no more



noble an ambition than to ensure we achieve that objective and ensure that staff return from work safe and well every day."



Powering Improvement Workshops

'Working with Contractors' is the theme for 2015 under the overarching Powering Improvement strategy, through this and the National Health and Safety Committee have put on a number of workshops across the UK in line with Powering Improvement.

There was a joint workshop with contractors held at the ENA offices on 7th April focusing on 'working at height' risks.

A seminar was held at the ENA SHE Managers Group on 24th August, the focus of the seminar was on occupational Road Risk, and Driver Safety. Member company representatives responsible for Road safety within their businesses attended the seminar, including a presentation from one of our Contractors, Robert Lindsay of Balfour Beatty.

Another Powering Improvement workshop held at ENA (21st October) has continued the constructive engagement that has been taking place with the contractor community, which has focussed on working together to share best practice, learn from experience and manage common risks. This engagement workshop brought together Health and Safety representatives within the industry, trade unions and the HSE aiding to deliver excellence in health and safety performance in the electricity sector.

David Smith, Chief Executive of ENA, said "Everyone working to keep the lights on in our vital electricity sector has the right to a healthy and safe working environment. Collaboration has always

been at the heart of Powering Improvement and this workshop has followed in that tradition. Success will come, not from top down management of contractors, but from working together in partnership to learn from each other's approaches."

Asset Management / Corporate Memory workshops

An Asset Management Workshop took place on the 19 March 2015, the workshop was held by **Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIEN)** at the Hilton Templepatrick Hotel in Belfast. Around 30 NIEN colleagues from a variety of backgrounds attended on the day. This included Directors, Managers, Engineers, Health and Safety representatives, Trade Union representatives as well as Contractors. The focus of the workshop was on the Chelmsford Tap Changer case study developed from the tragic event which occurred in 2008, and Corporate Memory issues arising from the Barr Head incident in 1997.

The workshop also allowed for discussions on other issues concerning both Asset Management and Corporate Memory. Speakers and facilitators on the day included: Roger Henderson (Operations Director, NIEN), Peter McCormick (Powering Improvement Coordinator, ENA), John Steed (HM Principal Specialist Electrical Inspector, HSE), Rory Lynch (Prospect Representative, NIEN), Mike Leppard (SHE Adviser, ENA) and Jamie Reeve (SHE Adviser, ENA). There were breakout sessions carried out during the day to allow attendees to discuss ideas on Process, Plant, People and Recovery in relation to Asset Management.

ENAs Peter McCormick, Mike Leppard and Jamie Reeve along with Lee Wallace (Safety and Training Manager, WPD) and Phil Swift (Director of Operations, WPD) delivered a successful Workshop at **Western Power Distribution's (WPD)** Gloucestershire Depot on Wednesday 28th October. The Workshop was attended by 33 WPD Staff, ranging from Senior Health and Safety Managers, Network Service Managers, Directors, Trade Unions, health and safety representatives and the HSE were also present. 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.

A third workshop was carried out at **Electricity North West** in Preston on Tuesday 1st December. Peter McCormick and Mike Leppard of ENA delivered the workshop alongside Operational Safety Manager, Jane Eccelston of ENW.

The Workshop involved a presentation on the unfortunate event that fatally injured an engineer at Chelmsford involving a Tap Changer, an incident that fatally killed two engineers in Barrhead in 1997 and other case studies on incidents that have occurred on Network assets (Overhead lines, wood poles, Plant and switch gear) over recent years. The aim of the workshop was for attendees to be informed and reminded of the past and ensure lessons are not forgotten, and good practice continues to be shared to ensure good health and safety and good asset management is reinforced. There were breakout sessions held throughout the day focussing on Plant/Process/People and Recovery, and discussions on learning points from a company and industry perspective. A Range of the Case Studies used within the workshop are detailed within the PI Asset Management Review of Past Related Incidents Booklet.

National HESAC

Throughout the year, as part of the 2015 Annual Theme for Powering Improvement, Contractors were invited to attend and present all 3 meetings of National HESAC in 2015, and this will carry on. This year, presentations have been given from Martin Worthington and Andrew Howard of Morgan Sindall at the first meeting on National HESAC on the 4th March. At the second meeting on the 6th May, Alan Bennett (Head of Health and Safety, Balfour Beatty) was able to attend and give a presentation on some of the key health and safety initiatives being rolled out across their business, and at the third meeting, Ian Nelmes of Amey came to the forum and presented to Members of National HESAC. By inviting these major contractors to attend at the National Health and Safety Committee for Electricity it increased the level of engagement and partnering between Electricity Companies and their contractors.

Company Workshops

Many of the Electricity Network Operators have been carrying out a number of contractor engagement workshops throughout 2015, 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.

Western Power Distribution were able to carry out 4 different events , a series of regional safety conferences for all of their contractors aimed at sharing safety best practice and improving information sharing aligning to the PI 'Working with Contractors' theme for 2015, having held one central event in 2014 with circa 110 delegates in attendance. This year WPD increased the number of events so that a larger cross section of contractors were in attendance, inviting circa 139 organisations to one of the four events, and each event had a regional focus. The events took place on, June 3rd West Midlands Contractors Conference Village Hotel Dudley, West Midlands, June 9th East Midlands Contractors Conference Trent Vineyard, Nottingham, June 17th South West Contractors Conference- Sandy Park Exeter, and finally June 24th South Wales Contractor Conference.

Northern Powergrid (NPg) holds an annual health and safety conference and has done so for a number of years. Each year they invite a substantial number of leaders from the businesses who are their service providers and they engage with them in safety improvement planning. In 2015, to coincide with the Powering Improvement focus of 'working with contractors', NPg held an event on the 23rd September, specifically for our contractors. Focussing on something NPg has been developing with other companies in the Berkshire Hathaway Energy group, namely the Human Performance Improvement Toolkit. 75 delegates attended the event, and it incorporated a number of presentations. In the morning four of their major contractors presented on significant events which had occurred in the past twelve months. In these presentations, the contractors explained what went wrong, how and why and what needs to be done to avoid it happening again, including references to the Human performance Improvement Toolkit. In the afternoon, following a presentation from Paul Bizell from the Dr Tim Marsh stable, there was more of a focus on what

Northern Powergrid is doing in collaboration with their contractors to proactively manage risk reduction.

The aim after a successful year of engaging with the Contracting community in 2015 will be to continue this partnership in years to come, to continue inviting all contractors to collaborative workshops and meetings of National HESAC.