

Company Environmental Policy Statement

and

Electricity Act 1989 Schedule 9 Statement

Electricity Distribution in the Yorkshire Dales

NEDL

CE Electric UK

YEDL

Environmental Commitment

Northern Electric Distribution & Yorkshire Electricity Distribution

This document contains the Northern Electric Distribution and Yorkshire Electricity Distribution general environmental policy commitments (Company Environmental Policy Statement) and those specifically relating to the preservation of the natural amenity (Electricity Act 1989 Schedule 9 Statement). The Schedule 9 statement should be considered in the context of our company-wide environmental management, which is subject to regular United Kingdom Accreditation Service accredited external audit to the requirements of international standard ISO14001 for environmental management systems.

Company Environmental Policy Statement

Northern Electric Distribution (NEDL) and Yorkshire Electricity Distribution (YEDL) form the electricity distribution operations of CE Electric UK. CE Electric UK is part of the worldwide MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company. This combined NEDL & YEDL company policy statement supports and upholds the principles and objectives of the MidAmerican global policy of environmental RESPECT.

NEDL & YEDL (the company) are responsible for the operation of the electricity network supplying the north east of England,

Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire. This undertaking requires the responsible development, operation and maintenance of the regional electricity distribution networks, with the aim of providing a reliable, safe and cost effective service for our customers.

The company recognises that a proportion of its activities have an effect on the environment and is therefore committed to complying with relevant environmental legislation, other important environmental obligations and a policy of pollution prevention. The company aims to promote environmental awareness, best practice and legal compliance amongst all staff, and have a positive influence on the environmental performance of contractors.

The company will take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that the appropriate environmental factors are taken into account in the: design, construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of its assets. A controlled programme of continual improvement initiatives gives support to the ultimate goal of environmental sustainability. Continual environmental improvement is achieved through the development and implementation of suitable procedures; and the setting and review of environmental objectives and targets by the company's top management.

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Environmental Policy Statement

Electricity Act 1989 Schedule 9 Statement

In responding to customers' demands for electricity, Northern Electric Distribution (NEDL) and Yorkshire Electricity Distribution (YEDL) are keenly aware of the need to conserve and enhance the environment for both urban and rural communities alike. The combined electricity distribution network covers an area of approximately 25,000 square kilometres, serving more than 3.7 million users via a network of 30,000 km of overhead lines and 62,000 km of underground cables.

The NEDL operational area includes three National Parks (Northumberland, Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors), four Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Northumberland Coast, North Pennines, Howardian Hills and Nidderdale) and two Heritage Coasts (North Northumberland and North Yorkshire & Cleveland). YEDL's operational area includes two National Parks (Yorkshire Dales and Peak District), two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Nidderdale and Lincolnshire Wolds) and two Heritage Coasts (Flamborough Headland and Spurn).

Our Commitment

In planning, constructing and maintaining the distribution network, we shall have regard to the desirability of preserving amenities and mitigating the effect of any proposals on:

- a) The natural beauty of the countryside;
- b) Flora, fauna and sites of geological, physiographical and special scientific interest;
- c) All features, buildings, sites and structures of special architectural, archaeological and historic interest, including those that are locally valued and important.

To do this, we shall consult at an early stage in any material proposal with the appropriate planning authorities or when advised by these authorities; and when it is otherwise relevant, to consult also with the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and Natural England as appropriate.

Implementation

We shall implement our commitment as follows, according to our documented management system:

1. Route overhead lines and plan substations so as to minimise visual impact using an established set of guidelines known as the 'Holford Rules'.
2. Avoid or minimise the impact on the many important wildlife sites, and areas of high landscape and heritage value that are protected or valued locally, nationally and internationally.
3. Implement additional measures to protect plants and animals during construction and maintenance of the network such as taking care when digging around trees and hedges and crossing sensitive land with vehicles.
4. Continue to foster and seek to improve our present good

relationships with environmental and planning authorities. This will involve consultation at the planning stage not only on schemes where there is a legal obligation to consult but also on schemes relating to sensitive areas.

5. In addition to our statutory requirements, we shall engage in consultative meetings with English Nature, Natural England, English Heritage, the Countryside Agency, voluntary organisations and other interested parties, in order to develop our environmental policy and to review this statement.
6. Maintain systems for handling and responding to external communications from stakeholders (especially members of the public) regarding the environmental impact of our network.
7. Conduct environmental risk assessments on all our activities to identify the potential for, and to make provision for, the prevention of pollution.
8. Have systems in place to identify all environmental legislation applicable to our activities, monitor changes to the law, and ensure compliance.
9. Train staff on the above requirements, which are documented in our internal procedures.
10. Implement an annual programme of internal and external audits to verify that design stage and operational controls are working properly. These audits will cover both our own staff and those of our contractors.
11. Continuously monitor our key environmental performance indicators and progress against our environmental targets, reporting results for regular review and action by top management.

Electricity Act 1989 Schedule 9 Statement