

Schedule 9 Statement under the Electricity Act 1989

4th April 2017



Contents

Overview	3
Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act, 1989 (as amended by the Utilities Act, 2000)	4
Company Background	5
Our Commitments	6

1 Overview

We own, operate and maintain the North West's electricity distribution network, delivering electricity to 2.4 million properties and more than 5 million people. We aim to carry out all our activities in a responsible manner, in line with our Sustainable Development Policy and balancing the needs of communities, the environment and the economy.

Specific legal requirements were placed on electricity companies at the time of privatisation. This Statement outlines the specific commitments we have made to the environment under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended by the Utilities Act 2000), relating to preservation of amenity.

In revising our Schedule 9 Statement, we have taken the opportunity to update previous commitments to ensure that they remain appropriate. We have also sought comment from a number of statutory and non-statutory consultees.

We will continue to monitor our performance against the commitments that we make under Schedule 9.

2 Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act, 1989 (as amended by the Utilities Act, 2000)

Electricity North West Limited has a duty under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to preserve amenity. The statement which follows explains how we will fulfil our obligations under the Act.

Schedule 9

Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended by the Utilities Act 2000) imposes specific obligations on electricity companies in respect of the environment. Extracts from Schedule 9 are printed below.

1 (1) In formulating any relevant proposals, a licence holder or a person authorised by exemption to generate or supply electricity –

(a) shall have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and

(b) shall do what he reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.

2. (1) A licence holder shall within 12 months from the grant of his licence prepare, and from time to time modify, a statement setting out the manner in which he proposes to perform his duty under paragraph 1(1) above, including in particular the consultation process he intends to follow.

(2) Before preparing or modifying a statement under this paragraph, a licence holder shall consult with the Countryside Agency and

(a) where the activities which he is authorised by his licence to carry on include activities in England, the Nature Conservancy Council for England and, the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England.

In the context of this legislation, ‘relevant proposals’ for Electricity North West are:

“...the installation (whether above or below ground) of an electric line; or

...the execution of any other works for or in connection with the transmission or supply of electricity.”

Statement Preparation

The first Schedule 9 Statement was produced in 1990 in response to the requirements of section 2(1) of Schedule 9 above. Since then we have been through a number of business changes during which the Statement was periodically reviewed and modified as required.

Since the Electricity Act (as amended by the Utilities Act 2000) was passed, the names of two of the bodies required to be consulted with have changed. The Nature Conservancy Council for England is now Natural England, and the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England is now Historic England. We have therefore consulted with these bodies. We have also asked our company Sustainability Panel (comprising of internal and external stakeholders) to review this document.

Scope

This Schedule 9 statement is specific to the electricity distribution activities of Electricity North West Limited, which is the licence holder referred to in the legislation above. Its scope is limited to those aspects detailed in paragraph 1(1) above and does not cover wider issues of environmental concern such as climate change, waste disposal or pollution prevention.

Information on these other areas can be found in our Business Plan Commitment Report and Environmental report on our website – www.enwl.co.uk

3 Company Background

We provide an electricity distribution network for over 5 million consumers throughout Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and parts of Yorkshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Merseyside.

This 56,000-kilometre electricity distribution network delivers 24,479 gigawatt hours of electricity annually from the National Grid to consumer premises (domestic and business) across North West England through a series of voltages from 132kV to low voltage. We charge the supply companies for using our distribution network.

Underground cables, overhead lines and substations are utilised to distribute the electricity. Underground cables supply dense urban areas, a mix of underground cables and overhead lines is used for smaller towns and semi-urban areas whilst agricultural and remote areas are predominantly supplied by overhead lines.

We do not own or operate any generation installations, eg power stations or wind farms.

Electricity North West's distribution area includes the whole of the Lake District National Park, parts of the Yorkshire Dales and Peak District National Parks, numerous Conservation Areas, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves, and a diverse mix of other countryside and townscapes.

The provision of a reliable supply of electricity is a requirement for a high quality of life. Without it many of the essentials of modern society would be unavailable, from domestic heating and lighting to industry and hospitals. The need for electricity is as important to communities in remote rural areas as to those in major cities. We have a duty under Section 9 (1) of the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an economical system of electricity distribution whilst at the same time achieving, or exceeding, standards set by the regulator Ofgem (Office of Gas and Electricity Markets). Distributing electricity via overhead lines is normally significantly cheaper than by underground cable, particularly in rural areas. We recognise, however, that the distribution of electricity can have an effect on the environment and take care to minimise this impact through careful planning of installations.

As part of our regulatory allowances, Ofgem provides a mechanism to underground Overhead lines in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks. Details of our allowances and performance are contained in our RIIO-ED1 Business Plan Commitment Report. - <http://www.enwl.co.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/businessplancommitments>

4 Our Commitments

Planning

We will build new electricity installations only where there is no opportunity to utilise the current assets to meet the increased demand or reliability requirements. This may involve new network extensions or network reinforcements to connect customers or distributed generators. In all cases we strive to achieve an acceptable balance between our statutory duties to preserve amenity and develop an economical system of electricity distribution.

We will include the duty of environmental care as an objective at all stages in the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of our assets.

We will ensure that appropriate environmental assessments are carried out and comply with all relevant planning and environmental legislation in developing and refurbishing our network.

Minimisation of Impact

When planning the construction of a new building or electric line (whether overhead or underground), we will strive to minimise harm to the environment, locate and screen that structure or line so as to minimise visual impact and noise and to avoid, wherever practicable, adverse effects on flora, fauna, archaeological remains, listed buildings, conservation areas and other designated historic sites and their settings. We will also minimise our impact in line with the National Planning Policy Framework guidance in relation to non designated heritage assets of archaeological interest. We will also look for environmental enhancement opportunities if they are feasible. We will use appropriate architectural styles and building materials in our construction work to retain local distinctiveness. We will also take account of landscape character based on any relevant guidance. New overhead lines will be routed in accordance with established guidelines such as the 'Holford Rules'

We included a number of techniques within our business plan (<http://www.enwl.co.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/business-plan>) to reduce the environmental impacts of the business including regeneration of transformers and transformer oil regeneration to extend our assets lives and reduce waste materials.

When replacing time-expired apparatus (such as plant equipment) we will take the opportunity to both reduce costs and to improve environmental aspects. This could include the exploitation of new technology to replace bulky equipment with compact, remove equipment or enclosures no longer required and re-think siting in the light of any changes which may have taken place in the surroundings.

If funding is available for minimisation of environmental impact, this will be prioritised to bring the greatest environmental benefit to the largest number of people, within the scope of the applicable funding mechanism. This may include carbon offset activities.

Key investment decisions are based upon cost-benefit analysis which incorporate the cost of carbon, ensuring environmental factors are included in investment planning.

Consultation

We will seek to identify those groups most likely to be affected by our works and instigate the earliest possible consultation with them. These include local authority specialists, National Parks or other Heritage specialists. Where work may impact on specific sites, such as land designated as a SSSI, we will consult and work with those groups at an early stage.

With regard to the undergrounding of overhead lines within designated landscapes, this will be carried out in consultation with the relevant statutory representative body for each area.

Re-use of assets

We will seek to re-use historic assets wherever possible. If not, when buildings and plant become surplus to company requirements, we will consider whether features of industrial archaeology (or other conservation aspects) require special measures to be taken.

Training and awareness

We will promote environmental awareness amongst staff, through appropriate training and dissemination of information. We will also make contractors aware of the relevant parts of this statement and of our Environment and Energy Management Policy. This will be conducted as part of our routine meetings with our contractors

Review

We will review this Schedule 9 statement every eight years or following major changes to legislation or our business.