NETWORK ASSETS
ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY

Policy 20/100 v5.1

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CHANGE CONTROL

Issue	Date	Modifications	
		Revised changes from Previous Issue	Page No.
1	01/03/13		
2	01/10/16		
3	31/10/18		
4	15/11/19	Template updated to reflect new NIE Networks branding.	All
	15/11/19	Minor revisions to wording.	All
	15/11/19	Section 2 - Updated to include additional information on organisational context.	3
5	19/01/21	Minor revisions to wording, figures and format.	All
	19/01/21	Section 1 - Updated to reflect new company vision statement and include additional information on Smart Technology within the Asset Management System aims and lessons learnt.	2
	19/01/21	Section 2 - Updated to reflect both new company vision statement and the five new company values.	3
	19/01/21	Appendix A - Updated to include change in aims and new corporate branding.	5
5.1	30/10/23	Section 2 - Updated Figure 1 to reflect current Transmission and Distribution Network Map	3
	30/10/23	Appendix A - Updated to reflect change in Managing Director	5

CONTENTS

FOREWORD

This policy is issued with the approval of the Managing Director of NIE Networks.

This is the fifth version of the document to be issued, and supersedes version four, which has been withdrawn. Changes to the document include additional information on the organisational context and minor revisions to wording.

Access to network policy and procedure documents is now provided via the NIE Networks' Intranet and SharePoint site. This revision has been prepared to take account of the revised process for the management of documents in the intranet and SharePoint environments.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to define the Asset Management Policy for NIE Networks.

This policy defines the Asset Management Policy of NIE Networks and is endorsed by the NIE Networks' Executive Committee.

It is the responsibility of everyone within NIE Networks to be familiar with and implement this policy.

1. ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY

Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIE Networks) is committed to delivering a sustainable energy system for all. In undertaking this Asset Management Policy we shall aim to adopt best asset management principles and practices; comply with all legal, regulatory and environmental requirements along with building on lessons learned from past experiences.

This policy is endorsed by the Executive Committee, with everyone in NIE Networks responsible for its implementation.

The NIE Networks Asset Management system comprises objectives, policies and plans that describe how the network is maintained, renewed and developed. NIE Networks is committed to reviewing its policies and practices so they remain fit for purpose, while reflecting the evolving requirements of all our customers and stakeholders.

We will aim to:

- Implement our asset management policy through the maintenance of a comprehensive asset management system that supports our asset management strategy, objectives and performance targets.

- Achieve a balanced outcome across our business priorities: safety, customer service, employee engagement, operational excellence, environmental protection, regulatory compliance, efficiency and sustainability.

- Ensure that robust and resilient infrastructure is in place that will facilitate additional demand, renewable generation and the trend towards decarbonisation of energy production and demand through continual network development including conventional reinforcement and the implementation of smart and market-based solutions.

In managing our assets, we will aim to:

- Ensure the safety of our staff, contractors and the general public through the promotion of a positive health and safety culture and adherence to legislation and recognised safety standards.

- Efficiently execute our plans and fulfil our customer promises.

- Continually engage with our stakeholders as we prepare and deliver our plans.

- Consider the complete lifecycle of our assets to develop investment plans that are sustainable, efficient and that balance risks and performance in both the short and long terms.

- Implement a smart incremental strategy that continues to deploy traditional solutions but, where appropriate, also deploys smart *(network flexibility)* and market-based *(customer flexibility)* solutions where these have been successfully proven.

- Develop resource and training strategies which align with the requirements of our asset management strategy.

- Integrate our asset management system with our risk, health and safety, environment and quality management systems.

- Measure performance against our asset management objectives and targets.

- Incorporate regular audits and formal management reviews to promote continual improvement.

- Ensure we maintain up to date information on the network assets and their risks.

- Apply a standard approach to lessons learnt across the whole of the asset base.
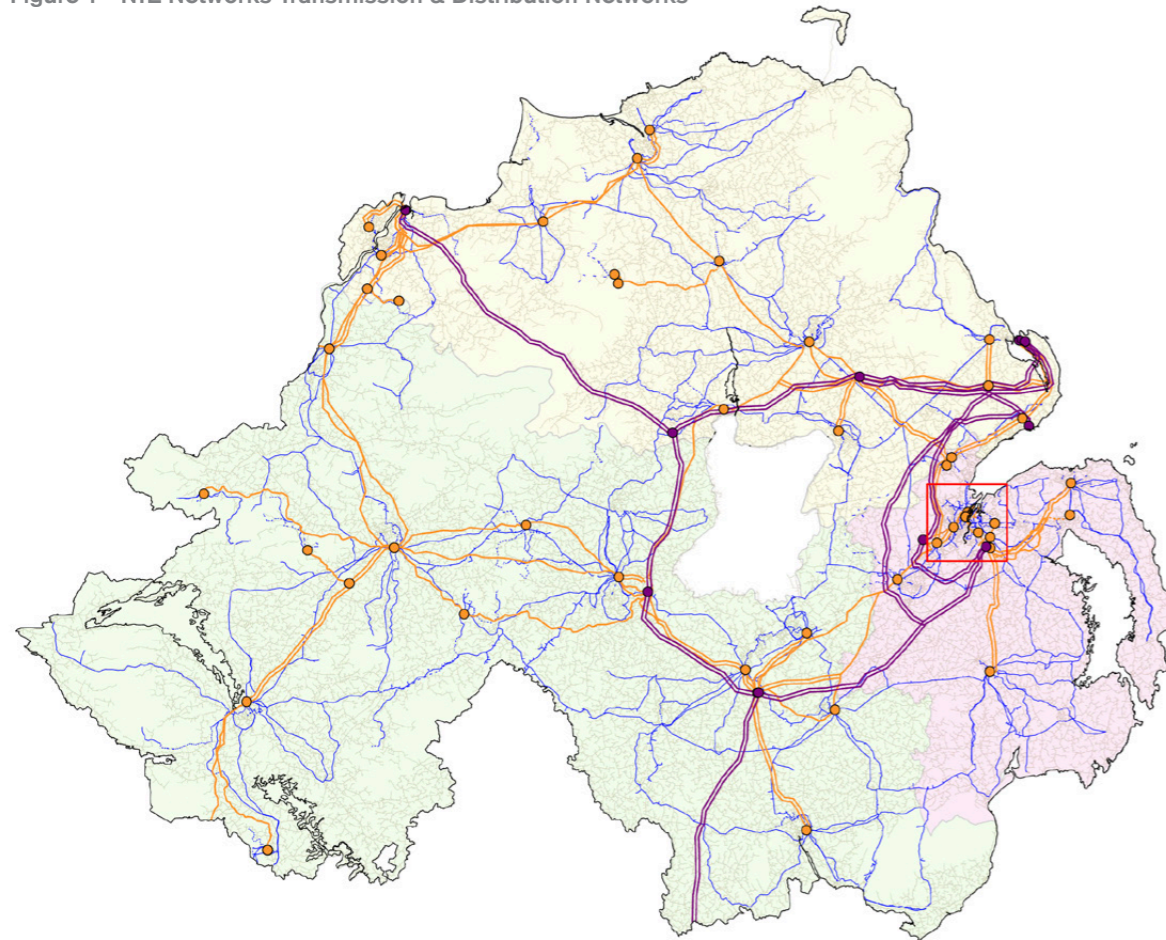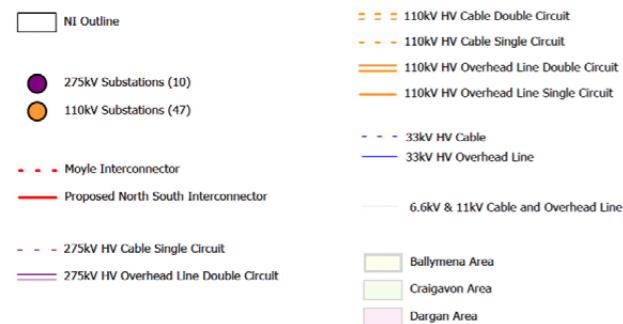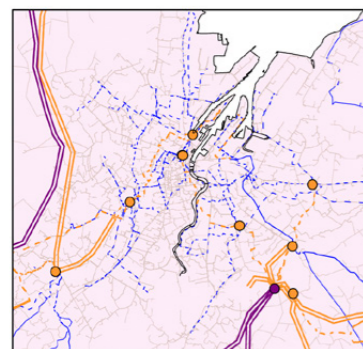
2. NIE NETWORKS ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

NIE Networks is the owner of the electricity transmission and distribution networks in Northern Ireland and the distribution network operator. It is regulated by the Utility Regulatory for Northern Ireland and is currently in regulatory price control period RP6 *(2017-2024)*.

Electricity transmission involves the bulk transfer of electricity across our high voltage network of overhead lines, underground cables and associated equipment mainly operating at 275 kV and 110 kV.

Figure 1 - NIE Networks Transmission & Distribution Networks

Belfast Area

Legend:

- NI Outline
- 275kV Substations (10)
- 110kV Substations (47)
- Moyle Interconnector
- Proposed North South Interconnector
- 275kV HV Cable Single Circuit
- 275kV HV Overhead Line Double Circuit
- 110kV HV Cable Double Circuit
- 110kV HV Cable Single Circuit
- 110kV HV Overhead Line Double Circuit
- 110kV HV Overhead Line Single Circuit
- 33kV HV Cable
- 33kV HV Overhead Line
- 6.6kV & 11kV Cable and Overhead Line
- Ballymena Area
- Craigavon Area
- Dargan Area

Electricity distribution involves the transfer of electricity from the high voltage transmission network and its delivery to customers across a network of overhead lines and underground cables operating at 33 kV, 11 kV and lower voltages.

Distribution lines and cables distribute electricity at voltages of 33 kV, 11 kV and 6.6 kV. The distribution network includes 230 33/11 kV and 33/6.6 kV substations, 80,500 distribution transformers *(mainly pole mounted)* at 11 kV-Low Voltage *(LV)* and 6.6 kV-LV and 13,300 distribution pillars and underground distribution boxes.

These networks enable the delivery of electricity from generators to customers. We share responsibilities with SONI in respect of the transmission network. SONI is the Transmission System Operator for Northern Ireland and is responsible for the operation and planning of the transmission network.

The transmission and distribution networks comprise of a number of interconnected networks of overhead lines and underground cables which are used for the transfer of electricity to 895,000 customers via a number of substations *(821,000 domestic and 74,000 commercial)*. There are 2,200 km of transmission network, 47,000 km of distribution network and 300 major substations, including 40 serving large wind farm sites. Our transmission network is connected to that of the Republic of Ireland *(ROI)* through a 275 kV interconnector and to that in Scotland via the Moyle Interconnector. There are also two standby 110 kV connections to ROI.

In addition to our network activities, we have a market services team which provides meter reading, meter installation and certification services and metering data to support the retail and wholesale electricity markets. The arrangements in respect of metering and market operations in Northern Ireland are different from those in GB. In Northern Ireland, NIE Networks is the common service provider for all metering operational activities including meter reading, whereas in GB there are a variety of independent providers of metering services contracted directly to suppliers.

Our company vision statement is "Delivering a sustainable energy system for all", and the values that we as a company continue to focus on are Safety, People, Customer, Commercial and Future.

Our key tasks are:

- to operate our network of overhead lines, underground cables and substations effectively to 'keep the lights on' for our customers;

- to maintain our network so that it is in a condition to remain safe, resilient and reliable;

- to fix our network if it gets damaged or if it is faulty;

- to upgrade or extend the existing network to provide additional electricity supplies or capacity to our customers including the development of innovative solutions to manage the increasing level of renewable connections and the uptake of low carbon technologies in line with the RP6 Price Control Final Determination;

- to provide electricity meters and provide metering data to suppliers and market operators. This is a key role in enabling wholesale and retail market competition; and

- to connect customers to the network, both for new electricity supplies and for new electricity generators.

All of these tasks are carried out having the highest regard to levels of safety, whether that is to members of the public, contractors or our own staff.

APPENDIX A – ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR DISPLAY

ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY
We will aim to...

Northern Ireland Electricity Networks

Implement our asset management policy through the maintenance of a comprehensive asset management system that supports our asset management strategy, objectives and performance targets.

Achieve a balanced outcome across our business priorities: safety, customer service, employee engagement, operational excellence, environmental protection, regulatory compliance, efficiency and sustainability.

Ensure that robust and resilient infrastructure is in place that will facilitate additional demand, renewable generation and the trend towards decarbonisation of energy production and demand through continual network development including conventional reinforcement and the implementation of smart and market-based solutions.

Ensure the safety of our staff, contractors and the general public through the promotion of a positive health and safety culture and adherence to legislation and recognised safety standards.

Implement a smart incremental strategy that continues to deploy traditional solutions but, where appropriate, also deploys smart *(network flexibility)* and market-based *(customer flexibility)* solutions where these have been successfully proven.

Continually engage with our stakeholders as we prepare and deliver our plans.

Consider the complete lifecycle of our assets to develop investment plans that are sustainable, efficient and that balance risks and performance in both the short and long terms.

Efficiently execute our plans and fulfil our customer promises.

Develop resource and training strategies which align with the requirements of our asset management strategy.
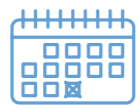
Integrate our asset management system with our risk, health and safety, environment and quality management systems.

Measure performance against our asset management objectives and targets.

Incorporate regular audits and formal management reviews to promote continual improvement.

Ensure we maintain up to date information on the network assets and their risks.

Apply a standard approach to lessons learnt across the whole of the asset base.

Derek Hynes
Managing Director

Northern Ireland electricity Networks is committed to the development and maintenance of a safe and secure electricity network. In understanding this asset management policy, we shall aim to comply with all legal, regulatory and environmental requirements in all our activities.

This policy is endorsed by the Executive Committee, with everyone in NIE Networks responsible for its implementation.

NIE Networks is committed to reviewing its policies so they remain fit for purpose, while reflecting the evolving requirements of all our customers and stakeholders.

Northern Ireland
Electricity
Networks

www.nienetworks.co.uk