

Assessing the pollution potential of our sites – Identifying which sites are classified as having a high environmental risk from historical land contamination

The project involves completing desk studies, site investigations and risk assessments of our sites to produce a list of those which have a high potential risk to the environment; whether it be near a watercourse or a Site of Special Scientific Interest. UK Power Networks has contracted the services of contaminated land specialists to provide a consultancy service supporting this project.

This project forms a long term strategic approach to environmental risk management. The results will provide a source of information to enable informed decisions to be made about how to reduce the environmental risks of the sites through remediation or containment.

Green Rhinos – Utilising new technology for discharging water pumped from excavations

A new filter bag has been developed in partnership with the UK Power Networks Environment Team and a consultancy called Capture Green. The introduction of the Green Rhino has prevented any potential for localised pollution by fitting over the pumps discharge pipe and capturing any silt and contaminant residue.

After a successful trial of the system it is now standard. UK Power Networks are leading best practice in this area being the first utility to adopt this filtering process.

Bunding Trial – Applying new Polymer-membrane technology in place of the conventional concrete bunding solution for oil filled equipment

Bunds are used as a barrier between oil filled equipment and the local environment to prevent pollution in the event of a leak or spill. UK Power Networks is trialling new polymer-membrane technology as an alternative to conventional concrete bunds at two locations. The polymer membrane captures oil whilst allowing water to pass through. The hydrocarbons bind to the polymers, eventually forming an impermeable barrier.

Bunding is legally required on oil filled equipment that is being stored off the live electricity network. Although bunds are not legally required on live oil filled equipment under the Oil Storage Regulations they are considered best practice in pollution prevention.



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Sustainability Report

2012/13



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