# SP Energy Networks 2013-2014

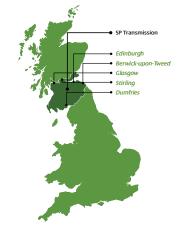
Electricity Transmission Stakeholder Engagement Submission Part 1





# Our engagement strategy: CEO Statement





Our transmission network is playing a key role in the transformation to a low carbon energy sector. We are connecting unprecedented volumes of renewable generation, and increasing transfer capacity to help get these new sources of generation to market.

We have developed high-quality plans to meet this challenge. This is recognised in Ofgem's decision to "Fast-Track" our 2013 to 2021 business plan. It demonstrates Ofgem's confidence that we are delivering what our stakeholders value, at efficient cost. Now we are successfully delivering against that plan. I firmly believe that our approach to stakeholder engagement has played, and is continuing to play, a critical role. We are planning and delivering well because we are engaging better.

I am therefore delighted to take this opportunity to showcase our stakeholder engagement activity, and how we plan and manage it. This is first part of a two part submission. It focuses on explaining our strategy for engagement, and how we implement and manage it within the business. The second part of our submission presents a portfolio of examples of outcomes that the strategy is delivering for the benefit of our business and our stakeholders.

Our approach to stakeholder engagement is simple. We are accountable to the communities and businesses we serve – and we engage in order to keep people informed, and to gather views and test ideas such that we can make better decisions, and a bigger contribution to those communities and businesses.

We articulate this approach through our strategy. This document is refreshed annually and approved by me and my Executive Team. It is the reference point for engagement activity by all parts of the organisation. We have developed our strategy significantly over the past 12 months, building on what we learned and what our stakeholders told us.

We have a common strategy across transmission and distribution – but tailor the activities to recognise important differences. In transmission we have a small number of very large users (such as Hunterston nuclear power station, and Network Rail). In distribution, we have a wider range of users – including 3.5 million households.

In the material that follows we explain our approach in detail, and explain why we have confidence in it – including how we have used independent assurance to test and challenge our approach. To draw out some highlights from this year's submission that illustrate the improved rigour of our approach:

- Implementing our Internal Stakeholder Action Group, with senior managers from across the business – giving them and key enthusiasts in their teams training on stakeholder engagement – supported by an external expert stakeholder practitioner. This gives a strong internal governance layer for consistent approach and application.
- Implementing our Stakeholder Panel concept, after testing at two external workshops – and informed by expert independent advice. This adds an additional strategy layer to test and challenge.

• Analysing and acting upon gaps. We formed our Social Issues Working Group, to improve how effectively we work with organisations such as Energy Action Scotland.

Our track record in delivering tangible benefits through stakeholder engagement gives us confidence that our approach and strategy are effective. This has been endorsed through independent assurance. Further, the greater structure and formality we have implemented this year also provides a solid foundation for improvement.

**Frank Mitchell** CEO, SP Energy Networks

	Transmission (Central and Southern Scotland)	Distribution (Central and Southern Scotland + Merseyside, Cheshire, N Wales, N Shropshire)
Cable length	4,300km	105,000km
Substations	130	30,000
Connected Customers	37	3.5 million
	e.g. major electricity users and large generators	e.g. homes, businesses, industry and distributed generation
Stakeholders	400	2400

## Independent stakeholder engagement opinion (DNV GL)

"SPEN has continued to update its stakeholder engagement strategy to ensure alignment with business objectives. The strategy contains a clear aim, defined benefits for both SPEN and stakeholders as well as engagement priorities for both Transmission and Distribution stakeholders.

Improvements were observed in the updated stakeholder engagement strategy in 2013, particularly related to the incorporation of pillars of SPEN's strategy, and the inclusion of the feedback loop within the pillars, which was identified as an area for improvement last year.

There is a clear governance structure defined within the strategy, as well as processes for ensuring stakeholder engagement priorities are still valid. A process has also been established for embedding the strategy within both Transmission and Distribution businesses, which recognises the inherent differences between these parts of the business. The formation of the cross-functional internal stakeholder action group (ISAG) is a key part of the governance process."



## Our engagement strategy: Overview

The cornerstone of our stakeholder engagement activity is our strategy document. This provides guidance to all staff on priorities for engagement, approach and tools for engagement activity. It is owned by the SPEN Executive Team and was published on our website in 2013 to provide transparency with our stakeholders. The latest revision to the strategy - building in learnings from assurance, reflection and other organisations - was approved in March 2014.

#### The seven pillars of our strategy

Data	Tools	Plan	Feedback	Resources	Governance	Assurance
A single, centrally managed database of stakeholders – mapped to categories, and ready to be integrated into our new CRM platform	Templates for planning and recording, good practice examples, training – centrally managed	Central – built to focus on material and strategic issues identified with and by our stakeholders TRANSMISISON BUSINESS	A range of channels to communicate findings and track / demonstrate impacts. Internal and external accountability through recurring activities.	Steered by senior management team, core central team supporting delivery by individual teams Complemented by external expertise and challenge	Strategy owned and advocated by senior management team – regular review meetings. Progress tracked through range of management information	External assurance used to support governance model and identify strengths and weaknesses
Group 1         1       National Government         2       Local Government         3       Business (I & C)         4       Housing         5       Generation         6       Interest Groups         7       Delivery Partners	<section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><section-header><section-header><text><text><text></text></text></text></section-header></section-header></text></text></section-header></section-header></section-header>	STRATRGIC ENGAGEMENT PRIORITIES: Service Connecting to the network Investment	Engage with stateholders every for the stateholders wiew to be a stateholder and out our plans and enhancements and measure progress	<section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header></section-header>		Anno Strateholder Bradismet Statemon 201 The Encure Dat Upper Statemon 201
8     Planning       9     Social       10     Future Networks       11     Academic Institutions       12     Industry Players       13     Finance		Environment Supply chain	Consumer Futures	3Q x		<b>ĴŠ</b> DINV

## How we give practical effect to our strategy

- Use high-profile stakeholder survey and events to identify and test priorities.
- Core central team of specialists to support/challenge delivery by teams – additional advisory and challenge function through new key stakeholder liaison forums for two major new infrastructure programmes and Social issues
- Working Group.Use a tracking log to record feedback from engagement activities and associated actions.
- Growing range of tools and guides being rolled out, including engagement training for 22 managers this year.
- Re-focusing of assurance work this year away from regulatory compliance, towards quality of engagement.

## Governance and development

- Monthly Internal Stakeholder Action Group (ISAG) – 12 senior managers, chaired by Stakeholder Manager.
- Monthly reporting and tracking report to Executive Team.
- Stakeholder panel concept tested at two external workshops, and now implemented. The panel adds an additional strategic layer to engagement; developing and challenging our plans and methods.
- Targeted use of independent advice, e.g. to support consultation on stakeholder panel. Also with use of appropriate subject expert on peat project.
  Regular use of set-piece events to test/challenge progress in response to feedback, e.g. at our
- annual connections summit for those affected by connecting to our network.

#### Documents providing evidence

Strategy paper (+11 appendices) – demonstrates our business-wide approach e.g. details engagement priorities.
Stakeholder survey (extract) demonstrates how we test and validate out engagement priorities annually.

 Engagement plan (extract) – demonstrates central engagement activity, maps to engagement priorities.
 Monthly report (example) – demonstrates how we record and report

- on engagement to senior management.
   Tracking log (extract) demonstrates how we capture feedback and actions.
- Training scope demonstrates the training course outline, aims and objectives.
- Independent stakeholder engagement opinion - DNV GL opinion on our approach to stakeholder engagement using AA1000SES standard.



# Our engagement strategy: How we design our engagement

The way we design our engagement is a product of the purpose of the engagement, i.e. the form of engagement follows on from the function of the engagement. Three discreet layers reflect the aim/function of the engagement from strategic challenge down to day to day service. The aim/function layer maps across to who we want to engage, who has responsibility for leading that engagement in SPEN and finally what mechanisms we use to approach that engagement.

#### Form follows function approach to engagement How (and frequency) Aim / function Who to engage Led by **Examples** Stakeholder Panels x2 (3-4 pa) Board Board level interaction of To provide external Example; mapping Directors perspective, challenge and criteria identified in potential collaboration into Stakeholder working groups (Task/finish) collaboration with our strategic decisions, As needed, topic/objective driven, may result in by Social Issues policy and programme wider engagement Working Group development Key stakeholders - potential partners Web based Other methods: - collaborators engagement system - regulators - Workshops, events, meetings Lead Example; Drop-ins Director - expert groups - Open days, drop-ins and community (Used as needed) Wider centre welfare To inform our - Surveys/focus groups stakeholders operational decisions, arrangements for Lead plan and programme - Media/information giving etc rural, off gas grid Local manager Topic / objective implementation communities works agreed with Designed as needed driven, may be open or local stakeholder - topic/objective driven by invitation only forum Team Customers Example; on-line customer community To inform our on-going service delivery and said use neutral Customer on-line community standards accents in customer information videos



# Our engagement strategy: Helping our stakeholders stay informed

A key element of our strategy is about keeping our stakeholders well-informed about what we are doing and how it might be relevant to them. We use a combination of methods - general and specific, and for various levels of interest, engagement and knowledge. We collect data on all the channels we use, which helps us develop and refine our approach going forward.

## What we do

Why we have confidence in what we do

#### Events

• A wide range of general and issue-specific recurring events to keep our stakeholders informed, for example annual stakeholder event for those connecting to the network, regional forum for developers in South West Scotland, Green Network community drop-ins for visual mitigation, conference presentations.

#### Publications

developments).

tweets/posts.

• An annual stakeholder newsletter which demonstrates impact of stakeholder influence over plans and policies and e-bulletins on specific issues

• Level and range of events – annual connecting to

the network summit for 30+ attendees, recurring

• Level and range of publications - stakeholder

of event material with presentations on-line,

geographic specific forum for 11+ developers in South

West Scotland (3/4 pa), guarterly key stakeholder liaison

meetings for new major infrastructure projects (2 major

facing sustainability strategy, post stakeholder event

presentations, stakeholder newsletter, press releases,

Range of materials on our website – full transparency

during the year e.g. new sustainability strategy.

#### Social media

• Launched Facebook and Twitter channels this year, timed to align with awareness campaign to maximise following. We post or tweet a new awarenessraising topic every day e.g. investment updates, job opportunities, approach to sustainability.

#### Website

• "Have your say" area of website, with library of clearly-signposted material and mirrored structure for Distribution.

project specific web pages providing latest updates,

• Use of analytics tools to understand how successful

our electronic updates are e.g. 23% opened our e-mail

• Use of feedback data - e.g. annual stakeholder survey

identified social media as important, but primarily as

Positive feedback on use of Twitter and Facebook –

290+ stakeholder followers since launch in Dec 2013

tool for raising general awareness rather than as an

about our sustainability strategy and 29% of those

clicked through to view the document.

stakeholder survey findings.

engagement tool.

and 1,200 individual followers.



Events

about our presence at their annual conference

## Social media

SP Energy Networks
 Year-W
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 SP Energy Networks today confirmed 450 jobs wil be
supported during the construction of the first sub-iea
electricity in between Sociatin and Energy Minister Michael Fakon difficit
amountament came as Energy Minister Michael Fakon difficit
Wetsetm Link MiCA project, where he met with Iberto's an
Sociathi-Nowr Charman Jgaaca Gaan. Read more here:



Facebook post on new

HVDC related jobs



**Publications** 

## Documents providing evidence

• Stakeholder newsletter – demonstrates one method of keeping around 400 stakeholders informed.

- Twitter example demonstrates how we promote our engagement activity with stakeholder following of 290+.
- E-bulletin on sustainability strategy demonstrates how we keep around 400 stakeholders informed.

#### Independent stakeholder engagement opinion (DNV GL)

"Several examples were seen across the business of how methods of engagement were being tailored to suit the needs of stakeholders such as the provision of audience response voting and SMS as a means of feedback at the service partner event and the social obligations working group, convening a cross section of stakeholders and SPEN staff to plan the way forward on social obligations."

#### 4



Our engagement strategy: Maintaining a broad and inclusive range of stakeholders

#### What we do

• Maintain a single, unified database of stakeholder contacts.

- Establish multiple routes to update data and use new technology – issue e-bulletins with new tool to allow stakeholders to update data independently, where appropriate.
- Regularly review how we categorise and added how we prioritise – to help identify gaps, and to help target engagement.
- Management and analysis of stakeholder data across Transmission and Distribution ready to

- integrate into our new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform.
- Take targeted actions to address gaps or weaknesses – this year focusing on expanding the successful key stakeholder liaison meetings that we learned were useful for major infrastructure projects.
- We seek to have senior management presence at industry conferences and other network company events to make ourselves available to harder to reach stakeholders.

#### Why we have confidence in what we do

- We have updated our database and added 170 new stakeholders since 2013.
- We have reviewed and updated our stakeholder categories, increasing from 4 to 13 to better target engagement.
- We have formed a Social Issues Working Group, to formalise our collaboration with Energy Action Scotland, National Energy Action and Consumer Futures.
- We are successfully identifying and engaging with new stakeholders, e.g. through our Green network community drop-in sessions around work in Stirling

we have received 30+ applications from community groups keen to develop visual mitigation projects.

- We are using independent experts to help us map, prioritise and categorise our stakeholder data – to complement, and help develop our own skills.
- We have been more accessible to our stakeholders, presenting at and having drop-in stands with senior management presence at industry conferences and working groups e.g. Scottish Renewables annual conference, National Grid's Customer Seminars (London & Glasgow) making ourselves available to harder to reach stakeholders.

## Documents providing evidence

• Stakeholder database (extract) – demonstrates how we manage contact details.

• Stakeholder categories – demonstrates the new

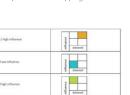
and Distribution. • Stakeholder prioritisation (extract) – demonstrates prioritisation of stakeholders.

combined stakeholder categories for Transmission

Our strategy would not be complete if there were systematic gaps or "blind spots" in the range of stakeholders we inform or engage with. Our strategy focuses on maintaining and extending the scope and depth of our engagement. This is particularly important given the growing range of network users, and the growing emphasis on social and environmental considerations.

#### Illustrating what we do

	NATIONAL GOVERNMENT	
	DECC	
	HSE	
UK Government	Environment agency	
	Natural Resource Wales	
Webh Government		
	SEPA	
Scottish Government	Emergency planning	-
	Energy Consents Unit	H
	MP1	-
Political	MSPs	
	AMS	
Regulator	Ofgen	
	Ombudsman	



merce

	Group 1
1	National Government
2	Local Government
3	Business (I & C)
4	Housing
5	Generation
6	Interest Groups
7	Delivery Partners
8	Planning
9	Social
10	Future Networks
11	Academic Institutions
12	Industry Players
13	Finance

Combined stakeholder categories for Transmission and Distribution

Community drop-in material



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Reaching out to stakeholders at conferences

#### Independent stakeholder engagement opinion (DNV GL)

"Various initiatives were undertaken by SPEN in 2013 which served as useful tools to ensure material issues for stakeholders are captured. These included stakeholder engagement events organised by SPEN, convening panels such as the social obligations working group and the formation of the internal stakeholder action group. SPEN's focus on this area has increased over the past year. A notable improvement in 2014 was the identification of relative priority of each stakeholder group for the business based on a stakeholder mapping exercise.

The prioritisation exercise resulted in the formation of specific working groups for particular stakeholders, which is a positive improvement."

Key for prioritisaiton mapping

5



# Our engagement strategy: Enabling timely input from stakeholders

Another key facet to our strategy is designing engagement in a way that allows us to make maximum use of the insights and findings in the decisions we make. We plan the sequencing of our engagement carefully with this objective in mind.

## What we do

• Plan engagement events to test/confirm priorities – and give visibility to our plans and schedules, e.g. outlining the scale of two new major projects to key stakeholder liaison forum so that they can plan resource.

• Tailor plans to specific issues in terms of scale, timing and engagement channels – and increasing work directly with stakeholders and communities to identify the most appropriate and effective ways of engaging e.g. responded to the local community in Hunterston and coordinated with SSE to have updates on all works in the area (even if unrelated to HDVC subsea project) included in community drop-ins.

• We develop and test before we scale up engagement, such that we can engage on the basis of a well-developed proposition, e.g. regional developer

forum model in South West Scotland now being used in our distribution business in E&W for collector schemes in North and Mid Wales.

• We provide an expanding range of routes for stakeholders to provide input e.g. drop-in stands and senior manager presence at key renewable conferences, "have your say" area of website, on-line consultation surveys.

• We use these engagement channels in the development process, e.g. sharing our proposed changes to the land rights policy at one of our South west Scotland forum meetings before issuing a consultation document.

• We track the input provided systematically to hold ourselves to account in acting upon it.

### Why we have confidence in what we do

We have a large and growing number of examples where input from stakeholders has directly and positively influenced what we do:

• Land rights policy standard lease duration significantly reduced in response to developer feedback.

• Green network programme in Stirling has seen the communities submit applications for30+ projects that will result in visual mitigation measures.

• Our annual stakeholder survey validates engagement priorities year on year and identifies new priorities e.g. social media was not felt to be a good tool for engagement but useful as a means of raising awareness of what we do.

Also a growing number of examples of designing engagement to enable timely input:

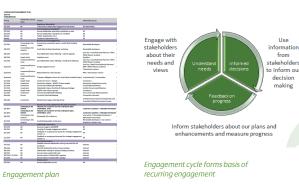
• We scheduled our South West Scotland planning update meetings to align with major milestones in the development of planning permission for the project.

• Engagement with EDF alongside the introduction new series compensation technology means we could develop technical solutions to protect their plant and also get more capacity out of the existing network for less cost.

• Running our metal theft campaign ahead of a key Government meeting on metal theft helped to raise the profile of the consequences of metal theft and promote the need for legislative change in Scotland.

• Running our agricultural safety campaign ahead of the harvest period when we get most incidents of contact with overhead lines.

## Illustrating what we do



<image>

Green Network web page for visual

mitigation of electricity towers

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Agricultural safety case study

#### Documents providing evidence

- Agricultural safety case study demonstrates how we time engagement.
- Land rights consultation demonstrates how we sought input on a policy change.
- Green Networks (web extract) demonstrates how we help communities to propose visual mitigation projects.

#### Independent stakeholder engagement opinion (DNV GL)

"In 2013 SPEN continued its efforts towards embedding engagement across the business through a number of measures such as giving director level access to stakeholder feedback. SPEN's stakeholder engagement strategy also links strategic objectives to engagement priorities, which is an improvement over 2012. It is evident that planning for engagement activities is taking place both at senior management level and at business unit level with support from a dedicated engagement team. SPENs engagement function now reports directly to the Regulation and Commercial Director, who is a board director therefore enhancing the role of senior management in stakeholder engagement."



Our engagement strategy: Using the right mix of engagement mechanisms

We recognise that effective engagement requires the commitment of time and effort from our stakeholders - and we can help (or hinder) by how we design engagement. We put great emphasis on tailoring our engagement tools to fit the needs of different stakeholders. We also explore and adopt new technology to help us do this.

Illustrating what we do

## What we do

- A systematic approach to assessing the nature of engagement – based on numbers involved and intensity of engagement required.
- A toolkit for staff designed to promote consistently highquality decisions on how to design engagement, made readily available through our intranet and reinforced through training.
- A centrally-managed process for documenting and communicating examples of good practice within the business
- A centrally-managed process for planning how we engage, and tracking how we use the feedback generated through engagement.

• Expand the range of engagement mechanisms we use, and review their effectiveness e.g. using KPIs to monitor progress in connection offer delivery and reworking the stakeholder area of the website to mirror structure in Distribution area.

#### Why we have confidence in what we do

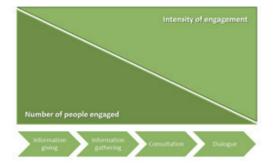
• We have a growing number of successful examples of using a diverse and tailored set of engagement mechanisms e.g. market research on stakeholder views and priorities, regional specific forums tailored for groups of developers, annual event for all parties affected by connections, community drop-in sessions for visual mitigation projects.

• We have positive feedback from stakeholders on the changes we are making to how we engage, and more stakeholders are getting involved as a result.

"They host forums e.g. special users by SWS collector. Focussed user group forums are beneficial" Stakeholder survey 2013 • We have trained 22 senior managers on stakeholder engagement, the spectrum of engagement and use of the toolkit to plan engagement.

• We have produced 11 stakeholder engagement case studies illustrating the breadth of engagement mechanisms on the spectrum.

• Our toolkit for supporting engagement planning and recoding is available to all staff on the intranet.



#### Engagement spectrum diagram



Engagement toolkit on internal website



Applying the engagement spectrum to our activity



Community drop-in session on visual mitigation

#### Documents providing evidence

• Engagement tool kit (web extract) – demonstrates what tool kit includes and availability to all employees.

• Engagement planning (example) – demonstrates how engagement planning element is used.

• Stakeholder Engagement Case Study (example) – demonstrates how we raise employee awareness of mechanisms across engagement spectrum.

#### Independent stakeholder engagement opinion (DNV GL)

"A number of new engagement tools and systems have been implemented by SPEN in 2013, which are facilitating a more co-ordinated approach to stakeholder engagement across the business. Improved engagement mechanisms and tools included monthly summary reports to the Executive Team on engagement, the engagement plan, the stakeholder engagement toolkit and the stakeholder engagement action log (tracker)."



# Our engagement strategy: Ensuring that stakeholders have an impact

We engage so that we can make better decisions, and demonstrate accountability to the communities and stakeholders we serve. A key element of our strategy is to "close the loop", by making sure that our engagement activity has demonstrable impact on the decisions we make. And that we review how this happens, and how we can improve it, on an ongoing basis.

#### What we do

- We plan and deliver high-quality engagement activities and hold ourselves accountable at a senior level, internally and through external events and publications.
- Our Executive Team tracks impacts through the "you said, we did" management report and action tracking log.
- We reinforce this at a working level through our Internal Stakeholder Action Group.
- We use recurring engagement in our annual engagement plans to hold ourselves accountable externally, and use data to improve the detail provided.
- We are adding an extra strategic layer to this accountability through the formation of a stakeholder panel for our activities in Scotland; the design has been informed by stakeholder views.
- We address gaps to ensure that we are inclusive in the range of stakeholders that have an impact, e.g. through attendance at external events we are taking ourselves to our harder to reach stakeholders.

#### Why we have confidence in what we do

• We have robust processes in place to track impacts – "SPEN has increased its focus on feedback loops in 2013 to address this issue, and has included this as a key pillar within its strategy. The stakeholder engagement action log (Tracker) has been established and is an important tool in supporting responsiveness to stakeholder views." *extract from independent assurance opinion (DNV GL)*.

#### • We have a growing and diverse track record of impacts,

- new social media channels to proactively raise awareness of what we do in environment and social context
- Significantly reduced lease timescales in our new land rights policy (reduced form 99 years to mirror project lifetime)
- Instrumental in helping Scottish Government to define wayleaves process to bring clarity and timelines to decisions on land rights
- Protection of peat land by relocating it to other areas of the site with advice from renowned peat expert,
- Consolidating communications material across a number of organisations so that Hunterston community got the full picture of the impact for their community
- Key stakeholders in a better position to plan their resources on two new major infrastructure projects due to formation of the key stakeholder liaison forums.

• Demonstrating that we are using data to improve quality of information provided to stakeholders, e.g. annual survey driving joint actions between us, National Grid and SSE to improve service to customers.

• Investing in and developing systems and processes to make us even more demonstrably accountable going forward, e.g. from 2014/15, stakeholder engagement activity will be recorded in our new Customer Relationship Management System (CRM) – enabling richer analysis of themes, trends and gaps.

#### Documents providing evidence

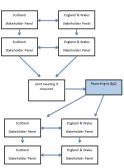
- Monthly report & Executive Team Agendas demonstrates that stakeholder engagement reviewed at highest level.
- Regional stakeholder panel brief demonstrates how we have responded to feedback on developing the panel.
- Internal Stakeholder Action Group (ToR) demonstrates senior manager accountability.
- Consultation on land rights policy demonstrates how we've used feedback to develop a new policy and consulted on that new policy.
- Tracking log (extract) demonstrates how we capture feedback and actions.

#### Illustrating what we do



Monthly stakeholder report for the Executive

Team using "you said, we did" format



Regional stakeholder panel diagram





Tracking log

HVDC – Westernlink – community newsletter

## Independent stakeholder engagement opinion (DNV GL)

"Responding to stakeholders on relevant and important issues, concerns and impacts and tracking responses is a vital part of effective stakeholder engagement and plays an important role in determining the effectiveness of engagement. SPEN has increased its focus on feedback loops in 2013 to address this issue, and has included this as a key pillar within its strategy.

The stakeholder engagement action log (Tracker) has been established and is an important tool in supporting responsiveness to stakeholder views."



# Looking to the future: Taking our strategy forward

This year we have worked hard to implement our new stakeholder engagement strategy, embedding it into our business and ensuring it has resulted in real and tangible outcomes. Looking ahead, we recognise there is still important work to be done – responding to new assurance recommendations and external feedback – and making sure the strategy is embedded throughout the business, providing more stakeholders with an opportunity to directly influence decision making.

#### External stakeholder panels and working groups

• Our two regional external stakeholder panels will run one full cycle in the next year. We anticipate there will be an opportunity to evaluate the success of the panels, considering both the value for our stakeholders and the value for our business. A key test of the success of this approach will be the ability of the panels to directly influence board level decision making.

• The new Social Issues Working Group will continue to meet; working to identify the top geographic areas for deployment of social initiatives and helping us to develop a specific local approach, with input from stakeholders local to the communities we identify.

• We will continue to test and confirm stakeholder priorities through the annual stakeholder survey and use the panel to test and challenge the findings.

Expanding the approach to target the construction industry

• Taking learnings from previous engagement with supply

chain across both Transmission and Distribution to shape new

where data shows this is a key audience.

proactive engagement with suppliers.

#### Deploying tried and tested methods

• Taking our innovative approach to proactive engagement with all renewable developers in South West Scotland and using this same approach in our 132kV network in the England and Wales distribution area.

• Continuing our new approach to public safety awareness, expanding our presence at key rural shows with high footfall.

Internal processes

• We will expand our stakeholder engagement toolkit; using the expertise of an external expert practitioner to help develop additional materials to be made available to employees and work to continue to embed a consistency of approach right across the organisation. • We will use the output from the prioritisation mapping exercise to further improve the focus of our engagement and direction of resources – with the help of the Internal Stakeholder Action Group.

• We will consolidate our spreadsheet based database and tracking log and further improve as we work towards the implementation of a new CRM system.

#### **External assurance**

• Based on the recommendations made to us by DNV on our approach to stakeholder engagement (using AA1000SE standard as reference point), we will make changes in response to the points raised.

• We have identified a need to move away from an annual assurance process to a more regular review; potentially the adoption of regular evaluation by an external body in a similar manner to that being adopted by the public sector.

### Illustrating what we do

#### AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement standard

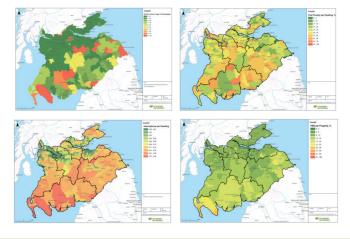
Excerpt from Community engagement matrix



High Impact
High I



#### Social obligations working group mapping



#### Independent stakeholder engagement opinion (DNV GL)

"We encourage SPEN to continue pursuing opportunities for improvement in 2014 based on our recommendations."

