

Protecting substations against flooding

Over recent years flooding has had enormous impact on our national infrastructure. The floods of 2007 prompted a government review, the results of which were published in The Pitt Report in June 2008. Our electricity networks have, in the past, been relatively immune from flooding with only a few isolated incidents that affected low numbers of customers.

However with changing weather patterns, the threat and severity of flooding has increased markedly. The Pitt Report says the electricity industry needs to 'up its game' in relation to flood preparedness. We accept this challenge and realise the issue is of strategic importance not only to electricity customers, but also to those who indirectly use electricity to deliver their service such as water treatment plants and sewage works.

Our own plans are at an early stage of development as we awaited the findings from the Pitt Report and other government reviews to ensure we address the issues in the best way. We believe it would be sensible to identify our most vulnerable and critical substations, develop a 'toolbox' of solutions to address a wide range of separate issues and propose a capital plan to safeguard these.

Stakeholders are invited to review and debate these issues to inform us how important this issue is for them going forward.