**Health and Safety Issues with Power Transmission**

1. Problems related to Electricity Generation practices ()

The basis for prioritising the electricity supply industry is that of possible future harm to workers and risk of catastrophic incidents in light of a number of common issues / themes that run through each part of the electricity supply industry, notably:

* Plant – ageing assets *(though this is decreasing through recent and ongoing investment programmes)*, new technology uptake
* Processes – proliferation of different working procedures and interfaces between duty holders *(particularly important where boundaries are not well defined)*
* People – contract issues *(selection/management/skills)*, an increasing proportion of the work force that is less experienced, competence for new technologies

New hazards and risks arising from the uptake and expansion of renewable energy technologies are a key focus, e.g. a move from coal-fired to biomass power generation may bring new health risks, and the rapid expansion of technologies such as wind energy and energy-from-waste has the potential to impact on the sector’s health and safety performance records.

Protecting the general public and consumers from danger from the electricity supply infrastructure is a key issue for those working on, or owning power network apparatus such as generators, distributors, meter operators. The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 (ESQCR) specify safety standards and duty holders have duties to report certain incidents that may involve public safety.