Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

TG-NET-ENV-517

Environmental

General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP) – Contaminated Land

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1 Introduction

1.1 Previous land use can lead to ground becoming contaminated with substances which may be hazardous to health or the environment. During construction works there is potential for these materials to be exposed, disturbed and mobilised. It may be possible to identify this as a risk during appropriate assessments at the planning stage, or it may be encountered unexpectedly during site works.

1.2 Works in vicinity of existing or decommissioned substation sites may be at increased risk of contamination, depending on the age and history of the site. Linear developments have the potential to encounter old tips, gralloch pits, or other areas of discrete contamination which may be not have been recorded.

2 Legislation

2.1 Investigation and management of any potentially contaminated land must be undertaken in compliance with relevant Environmental and Health and Safety Legislation.

3 General Compliance Requirements

3.1 Planning the works

3.1.1 Plan works taking account of recognised best practice and all relevant waste regulations.

3.1.2 Key stakeholders for contaminated land issues often include landowners / tenants, the local authority, and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

3.1.3 Assess the risk of contaminated land issues at a site using historical land use checks and information from site walkovers, hydrological and geological mapping and other relevant data sources (sometimes referred to as Phase 1 Contaminated land assessments).

3.1.4 Check with the landowner whether they are aware of any historical land use which may give risk to contamination (e.g. old tips, middens, gralloch or stink pits).

3.1.5 Where a risk of contamination is identified, further site investigations may be appropriate, including analysis of soil and water samples for specific suites of potential contaminants and more detailed contaminated land assessments (which may consider source, pathway, receptor models).

3.1.6 Identified, high risk or known areas of contaminated land should be recorded and identified clearly in project documentation, including clear scaled plans with inset showing location context of plan.

3.1.7 Contamination could however be encountered in areas where it has not been expected and checks must be undertaken to ensure that any risks to the environment are identified and controlled.

3.2 During works

3.2.1 During works (including site investigation) keep a careful lookout for any signs of contamination during boring, excavating, soil stripping and similar operations.

3.2.2 Signs of potential contamination may include discoloured soil, unexpected odours, a fibrous texture to the soils (e.g. asbestos), or presence of foreign objects (e.g. chemical/oil, containers/waste).

3.2.3 Increased risks of contamination may exist if there is any evidence of previous soil workings, underground structures or waste pits, evidence of made ground, or old drain runs.

3.3 If contamination is encountered

3.3.1 Stop work immediately.

3.3.2 Report the discovery to the site manager and project environmental representative within 30 minutes. An EcoOnline report should be raised to track the occurrence. Expert advice and guidance on required measures / mitigation should be implemented. Ensure the landowner / occupier is informed.

3.3.3 Seal off the area to contain spread of contaminants.

3.3.4 Undertake risk assessment to minimise the risk to health and safety of site workers. This should identify acceptable working methods, PPE, contact, and other required procedures.

3.3.5 Clear site to ensure there is nothing that could cause fire or explosion.

3.3.6 Ensure that the suspected contamination is tested and characterised, including any Waste Acceptance Criteria required if waste is to be disposed offsite and agree changes to the existing site proposals and method statements.

3.3.7 Avoid causing or spreading contamination.

3.3.8 Do not stockpile contaminated soil unless it cannot be avoided. If it is necessary, stockpile only on an area of hard standing to prevent contamination of the underlying area. If possible, place material on non-permeable geotextile or membrane.

3.3.9 Cover the stockpile with plastic sheeting to prevent infiltration of precipitation and spread of soluble contaminants and to prevent potentially contaminated wind-blown dust.

3.3.10 Control surface drainage from stockpiled area. Remember water draining from a stockpile may be contaminated and require controlled off-site disposal.

3.3.11 Where disposal of contaminated land is required, this should be done in accordance with current waste legislation.

4 Revision History

No	Overview of Amendments	Previous Document	Revision	Authorisation
01	New Document Created	N/A	1.00	Richard Baldwin
02	Review of existing document	TG-NET-ENV-517 General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP) – Contaminated Land Rev 1.01	1.01	Richard Baldwin
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