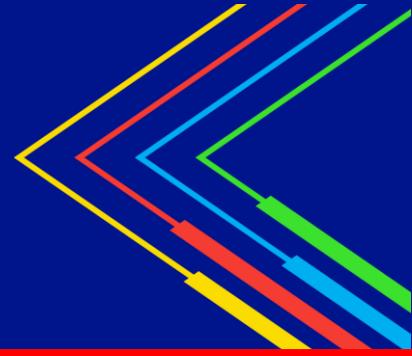


Shared Learning Bulletin



Excavating Within 3m of Live Asset

What happened?

On 12 March 2020, a civils subcontractor undertaking drainage works on site at Peterborough Compressor Upgrade Project breached National Grid's T/SP/SSW/22 Specification for safe working near National Grid Gas high pressure gas pipelines and associated installations.

The area in which the subcontractor was working had been demarcated / fenced off to establish a distinct boundary between the Principal Contractors CDM area and Gas Transmission's operational assets.

To facilitate the works, the subcontractor moved a section of the fence line back towards the live assets (See Picture) and proceeded to excavate within the three metre 'no go' zone. The subsequent excavation was less than one metre from a live asset when the works were stopped by National Grid personnel.



Fence Moved for Excavation Works

Why did it happen?

The planning of the works did not consider the presence of the known buried pipework

The temporary Heras fence line erected to demarcate the live National Grid Gas Transmission operational area from the principles area had been moved to facilitate the works without prior consent from National Grid site operations team

Guidance from HSG 47 r3 (avoiding danger from underground services) was not followed

Although the permit to dig confirmed that all mechanical digging aids had been removed from site, the team still used a mechanical excavator for the task.

The Permit-to-Work was not robust in mentioning specific dangers such as the known buried pipework and associated assets.

There was a poor pre-start work brief that did not adequately check the correct controls were in place on site.

An assumption was made regarding the position of an existing pipework

Learning Points

No barriers, fencing, etc. shall be moved without prior consultation with Site Engineer, Construction Manager, and National Grid Capital Delivery personnel.

Actions to prevent reoccurrence

Complete a review of the process to issue permits and the information provided to the front-line team.

All future Permit's to dig to include sign off from the Site Engineer prior to works commencing.

The Principal Contractor are to undertake regular competence reviews of CAT and GENNY operatives to ensure the required skills, knowledge, and experience is in place.

Existing services across site must be marked up on the ground prior as per HSG47 r3 guidance and National Grid's T/SP/SSW/22 specification prior to breaking ground works commencing.