



Representing Drainage Water Level & Flood Risk Management Authorities

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22nd August 2023

Safe Working Clearances for essential maintenance works under HV Cables

Reference: Yorkshire GREEN – DC1 - Q4.03 Ainsty Internal Drainage Board Response

Dear Sirs,

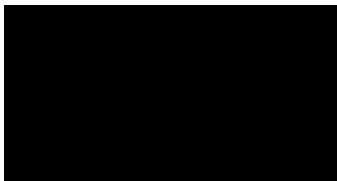
It has come to our attention that one of our members – the Ainsty Internal Drainage Board (IDB) – has highlighted significant safety concerns about the clearance of high voltage electricity cables from the ground as part of National Grid's Yorkshire Green Project.

As part of the project, we understand that National Grid are proposing to use the minimum clearance heights for new cabling of 7m for 250kV and 7.6m for 400kV cables without taking into account the need for certain essential maintenance activities to be undertaken below these cables, such as the routine maintenance of ditches and waterways for flood risk management reasons. The equipment which Ainsty IDB uses has a working height of 3.5m which, when added to the minimum clearance heights, gives a minimum required clearance height between the ground and lowest point in the cabling of 10.5m. ADA understands that this aligns closely with the Health & Safety Executive's Guidance Note GS6 which includes incorporating a minimum 10 m clearance from overhead lines and an exclusion zones identified when third parties are working underneath an overhead line.

Ainsty IDB have indicated that they are prepared to work with National Grid to evaluate the necessary clearances at each of the sites where new cabling is proposed.

The purpose of this letter is therefore to ask the Planning Inspectorate to uphold Ainsty IDB's concerns and request that for each case of cables crossing waterways and ditches where IDB maintenance operations take place, the minimum HV cable height off the ground should be 10.5m, unless otherwise agreed with the IDB.

Yours faithfully,



Innes Thomson
Chief Executive

Cc: W Symons (Ainsty IDB)

ADA – representing drainage, water level and flood risk management authorities

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