

Passing of the torch: New head of gas operations for London

James Harrison takes over National Grid Gas Distribution's fast paced London patch

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- James Harrison takes over as National Grid Gas Distribution's Head of Operations for London
- Predecessor Phil Clarke retires after seven years in the post and four decades in the gas industry
- National Grid Gas Distribution network includes world famous locations and supplies over two million customers in the capital

There has been a changing of the guard at the top of National Grid Gas Distribution's fast paced London Gas Distribution network.

James Harrison, who was previously Head of Operations in National Grid Gas Distribution's East Area, takes over the London network from predecessor Phil Clarke this week.

His new job involves managing Emergency Response and Repair Operations dealing with reports of gas escapes across National Grid's London Gas Distribution network. It's no small task as the network supplies over two million people and includes world famous locations such as Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament and Canary Wharf.

Chartered Engineer James, 39, who holds a degree in Civil Engineering, has worked for National Grid for 18 years.

His previous experience in National Grid Gas Distribution has included working as a supervisor, business analyst, pipelines manager, maintenance network manager. Most recently he has been Head of Operations Emergency Response and Repair, for National Grid Gas Distribution's East of England of patch, which includes East

Anglia and the East Midlands.

He said: "I'm honoured to be working with a strong team to ensure Londoners keep on enjoying safe and reliable gas supplies.

"National Grid Gas Distribution performs a vital role in helping London maintain its status as a leading 21st century city and I'm delighted to be playing a part in that."

In between managing his busy workload, James serves as Chairman of the Pipeline Industries Guild, where his duties have included hosting Princess Anne at the Guild's recent 60th Anniversary Dinner.

Married with three children James' interests outside work include cycling, rock climbing and spending time with his family.

Chartered Engineer Phil Clarke has worked in the gas industry since 1982 and he has been the Head of Operations in London since 2010.

Looking back over his time heading up London Operations Mr Clarke said: "It's been a real honour to be responsible for ensuring a safe, reliable gas supply for Londoners over the last seven years."

"I've had a fantastic team of people around me and it's been great to see us develop new keyhole technology to help ensure our repairs are delivered with less disruption for the public."

Phil regards the biggest success of his tenure as developing and implementing a strategic plan for London Gas Emergency Operations and Response during the 2012 Olympic Games.

He said: "It was great to play a part in helping make sure we were ready for one of the biggest events London has ever seen."

"Fortunately it all went very smoothly but we had to be prepared for every eventuality."

Phil has also held a wide range of other senior management positions including managing gas terminals and the national gas transmission system.

He now intends to explore opportunities outside National Grid that can use his extensive knowledge and practical operational experience.

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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