**EDF Energy Networks**

**Mike Dixon – Engineering Projects Manager**

Mike is currently working on asset management strategies and investment for EDF Energy's three electricity distribution networks, serving East Anglia, London and the South East. Mike joined EDF Energy (previously Eastern Electricity) in 1987. He started his career with the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board (MANWEB). In 2000, Mike led the creation of stakeholder Steering Groups to direct investment in the undergrounding of overhead lines in Protected Areas within the East and South East networks. Mike is a Chartered Engineer, MIET and MIAM. He is active in community affairs and is Chair of his local Parish Council.

**John Park – Infrastructure Planning Engineer**

John joined Seeboard in 1964 where he held a number of posts before moving to Southern Electricity Head Office as a Substation Design Engineer. In the mid 70's he returned to Seeboard in a similar role before becoming the Company's Drawing Office Manager. A switch in career then saw him take up a series of posts within Asset Management where he managed a number of successful high profile projects before joining Infrastructure Planning with a particular focus on developing close relationships with Local Authorities and Government Agencies. In recent years John has concentrated his efforts on assisting Local Authorities in developing their LDF's with an emphasis on 'Core Strategy' issues associated with infrastructure provision. Ensuring that Authorities at both local and regional levels understand the importance of working with EDF Energy is vital to the process of producing timely and adequate electricity infrastructure investment schemes across the region.

John is a Member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology and is a Registered Member of the Association of Project Safety.

**Dick Polley – Planning Manager (South)**

Dick is currently responsible for the planning of EDF Energy's networks in London and the South East to ensure that their development keeps pace with the changing demands upon them. In a career of almost 40 years, initially with Seeboard, and latterly with EDF Energy, Dick has fulfilled a wide variety of engineering and management roles encompassing operations and strategy in addition to his present planning responsibilities. Prior to taking up his present role in 2005 he was responsible for the operation of the Network Control and Trouble Management Centre for the network in the South East. An honours graduate in electrical engineering, Dick is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology

**Suggested Themes and Questions**

1. Could you tell us about the electricity distribution network and highlight any particular issues for Kent.

2. Could you please tell us about the capacity of the grid and highlight any challenges arising with regard to renewable energy generation at different scales in Kent? Can the distribution network in Kent cope with the added load from distributed generation – how is this being managed and what are the issues?

3. Could you comment on energy security and uncertain gas supplies – in your view how urgent is the electrification of heating and transport and what do you believe is the role of the public sector with regard to this?

4. We have heard evidence about a CHP plant which can operate in island mode or parallel mode so that customers receive seamless supplies – are there similar arrangements for renewable energy generation:

    - What then, are the arrangements for households or larger sites generating renewable electricity – in respect of connection to the network to 'feed in' excess generation or to take power from the network if needed?
    - Are sites generating their own electricity immune from problems with the network resulting in power cuts elsewhere?
    - Recently there have been a number of power outages in Maidstone which have, for example, affected our HQ buildings – are you able to 'throw any light' on the kinds of issues that might be to blame in this case? Would KCC buildings be less likely to experience these problems if there was onsite generation?

5. The review has heard that "Large scale energy storage is critical to managing intermittent renewable energy sources". What are your views on this and can you comment on current solutions under consideration, and the possibilities for Kent.

6. Could you tell us about network issues associated with electric vehicle charging?

7. One means of reducing the load on the network by organisations such as KCC is by effecting behavioural changes –energy monitoring devices are one way of raising awareness about energy usage – from your experience, can you comment on the effectiveness of such measures and whether they are cost effective?

8. Could you please comment on the importance of infrastructure planning. What, in your view, are the key actions for local authorities in ensuring that future infrastructure needs are met?

9. The select committee has heard that one barrier to the progressing of renewable area schemes in rural, off grid, areas - is the cost of obtaining an initial survey and advice on network connections - can you comment on your industry's response to meeting these needs - what could be done to assist progress?