

RIIO-T3

Major Project EJP Summary

NEWX-WIMB, HURS-NEWX and HURS-LITT Decommissioning

National Grid Electricity
Transmission's Business Plan

December 2024

LPT2 Circuit Decommissioning Project

Executive Summary:

Background

The London Power Tunnels 2 (LPT2) Circuit Decommissioning Project is designed to conclude the main LPT2 scheme by decommissioning disconnected 275kV oil-filled cables. These cables are situated between major substations in London.

The decommissioning of these cables is critical as they have reached the end of their asset life and pose potential environmental and safety risks.

Investment Drivers

The primary drivers for this investment are non-load related, focused on mitigating health, safety, and environmental risks. Specifically:

- Reducing the risk of oil leakage from the aging, oil-filled cables, which can lead to environmental contamination.
- Removing cables that have been disconnected following the commissioning of new cables under the LPT2 scheme.
- Addressing legal obligations to remove existing cables once wayleave agreements expire.
- Ensuring that any remaining cable sections are in a safe condition both electrically and environmentally.

Options

Options taken forward for analysis included minimal intervention to full and partial removals as well as whole system considerations.

Preferred Solution

The preferred solution balances the need to minimize environmental impact, reduce stakeholder disruption, and manage costs effectively. This hybrid solution involves:

- Removing oil from disconnected 275kV cables and retaining the assets in situ within public highways.
- Removing all existing oil-filled cables and their associated equipment from other private and public land, unless landowners prefer the cables to remain.

This approach minimizes disruption to local communities, minimizes environmental risks, and ensures the safety and reliability of the network.

Timeline

The decommissioning works will be carried out during the RIIO-ET2 and RIIO-ET3 periods.