WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION

Serving the Midlands, South West and Wales

WPD West Midlands Business Plan

Key facts about our network

Ownership : Western Power Distribution

Number of customers : 2,470,000

Length of underground cables (km) : 40,000

Length of overhead cables (km) : 24,000

Total units distributed annually (GWh) : 24,409

Number of employees (FTEs) : 1,784

Area covered (km²) : 13,300

Geographical location : West Midlands, including Birmingham, Worcester, Gloucester, Hereford, Telford and Stoke-on-Trent.

For our area map, see www.westernpower.co.uk/About-us/Our-Business/Supply-area

Peak demand (MW) : 4,792

What we plan to do

During RIIO-ED1 (2015 - 2023) WPD will continue to provide the best customer service, deliver further improvements to network performance and facilitate the move to a low carbon future.

We will invest £1.9bn during the period including expenditure to maintain, extend and reinforce our network. We have benchmarked our costs to ensure this expenditure is efficient and we have embedded further savings into the plan to ensure we continue to deliver efficiently.

Our proposals will reduce customer bills on average by 9.5% in real terms.

Our plan delivers over 75 measurable outputs for customers which include:-

- reducing the average time customers are off supply by 45% vs.DPCR5 targets
- connection of Low Carbon Technologies at the most efficient cost
- improving the overall time to deliver a new connection by 20%
- continuing to be the most innovative company
- answering all customer calls in less than 2 seconds on average
- ensuring we continue to have no Ombudsman complaints
- reducing our carbon footprint by a further 5%

For further information please see our website www.westernpower.co.uk or contact Alison Sleightholm, Regulatory & Government Affairs Manager (Email: asleightholm@westernpower.co.uk).

How much we propose to spend and how it will be financed

Cost of Equity	6.7%	Notional Gearing	65%

All amounts in 12/13 prices	Total spend £m over the course of the price control	Annual average Percentage change from DPCR5
Network Investment	£862.20	-4.3%
Operating Costs***	£1,014.80	-25.5%

How this will impact domestic customer bills

Distribution charges make up 16% of the average overall domestic bill*

All amounts in 12/13 prices	2014/15**	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Percentage change in distribution costs	n/a	-7.2%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Annual change in £s	n/a	-£6.12	£0.78	£0.80	£0.80	£0.81	£0.82	£0.83	£0.83
Total distribution charge	£84.76	£78.64	£79.42	£80.22	£81.02	£81.83	£82.65	£83.48	£84.31