



Robust planning for a major power outage

Country
United Kingdom

Number of locations
8

Number of employees
10,000 +

Services included

- > Audit of capability
- > Incident and emergency management
- > Crisis management
- > Crisis communications planning

Client

A leading global electricity company.

Challenge

Our client wanted to develop, test and validate its planned response in the event of a simultaneous and extended loss of National Grid power. The focus of the challenge was fleet-wide situational awareness and the dissemination of critical information to its network of eight nuclear power stations. With the consequences of failure so profound, this was an essential emergency management requirement for the organisation.

Approach

Assessing the organisation's readiness for power outage called for a comprehensive programme that would engage teams from across the business and culminate in a simulation exercise.

The first stage was a risk and capability assessment, looking at both the structures within the organisation, the enabling processes and the key personnel responsible for sustaining the power stations in the event of loss of National Grid power. In consultation with key stakeholders, an engagement plan was developed along with a gap analysis to address key information requirements, information management processes and flow. From there the focus was on enabling shared situational awareness for strategic, tactical and technical decision-making. This included consideration of how information needed to flow across stakeholder teams in the event of a loss of power. Team development and training then played a key role in building the required capability – an in-depth training schedule, including mentoring and simulated exercises, tested these skills in a 'real-life' scenario.

Results

The client declared the project a success, reporting a new confidence in its ability to respond to an emergency of this magnitude and a clear strategy for making improvements in the future. The work was further endorsed when the external auditor, the Nuclear Safety Committee, confirmed that its stringent validation requirements had been met.

“With a breadth of knowledge and experience as well as an impeccable track record, Berwicks were the obvious choice for this project. We now have an improved understanding of our organisational capability as well as greater confidence in our ability to respond to this identified risk.”

Project Manager
Leading global electricity company