



How can best practise in the water industry help prioritise investment in mains replacement?

Investment Prioritisation in Distribution Systems

We have led a project on behalf of the UK gas networks to look at a multi-criteria assessment approach to gas pipe replacement.

The Investment Prioritisation in Distribution Systems project has been instigated in response to a recognised opportunity to benchmark and transfer good practice and approaches to investment prioritisation between the water sector and gas networks.

This project has successfully developed a Decision Support Procedure that describes the process which enables gas pipe replacement plans to be developed in an alternative way, encompassing a broader view of operational risk and allowing the application of cost-benefit principles to all pressure tiers of the gas network.

This Decision Support Procedure was applied to our South West Local Distribution Zone, in which it generated a range of gas pipe replacement projects around a given set of 'starter' pipes. A shortlist of projects was then created for each starter pipe based around projects that deliver maximum benefit for a range of different costs.



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Key Benefits

- Comparison of water industry best practice to the gas pipe replacement planning process, specifically identifying efficient investment and cost-effective investment planning.
- Identification of additional risk assessment methods to plan and prioritise investment.
- Gaining knowledge and experience of tried and tested approaches for investment planning from a different sector.

Next Steps

- Learning from the project was carried forward to the Network Output Measure Risk Trading Methodology project.

