NJUG

**Les Guest Takes up the Role of NJUG Chief Executive**

23rd March 2009 –The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG), the UK trade association representing utilities on street works matters, has appointed Les Guest as its new Chief Executive Officer as Richard Wakelen completes his term.

Les, who has had a key role in NJUG for a number of years including a previous tenure as Chief Executive (2005-07), will build on the work carried out by Richard and continue to drive forward NJUG's promotion of best practice, safety, quality and co-ordination of street works. He will also continue to represent members in discussions with Government and other stakeholders on street work issues.

Les has been a Board Director of NJUG since its creation as a limited company in 2003 and worked in the gas industry for over thirty years, most recently as National Grid's UK Gas Distribution Policy Manager for Street Works. Les takes over from Richard Wakelen who has moved from Head of Street Works at EDF Energy to Director of Business Strategy and Performance, within the Customers Branch at EDF Energy.

Richard Wakelen, commenting on his retirement, said: "It has been an extremely productive couple of years for NJUG, during which time we have seen the organisation grow in line with the many developments the industry has experienced. It has been an honour to work with NJUG colleagues in launching our *Vision for Street Works* and working to promote the efforts members are making to turn it into reality."

He added, "I have every confidence that Les will continue to drive the industry forward, and work with policy makers to ensure further legislation is unnecessary, and current regulations, such as permit schemes, are workable and effective at delivering their aims."

Les Guest, new CEO of the National Joint Utilities Group, said: "I will look to carry on the good work that Richard has done in building relationships and promoting NJUG's *Vision*. As the voice of street works, NJUG will continue to develop a clear industry strategy to guide its work in promoting safety, quality and co-ordination of street works throughout the UK."

He added, "In particular, we will be looking to build on the results of our recent survey, conducted by ComRes, on the public's opinion of street works, which demonstrated a clear need for an improvement in the way utilities advise the public of forthcoming works. We will also be looking to strengthen our library of good practice examples, which was expanded by NJUG's inaugural Awards last year."

Other changes to the NJUG Board and re-organisation of positions include Dave Turnbull and Mark Ostheimer taking up new roles as Legal Director and Operations Director respectively. NJUG is also pleased to welcome new member representatives Rob Wesley (Water UK) and Christopher Perkins (Energy Networks Association, Electricity). The full membership of the Board can be found at the bottom of this release.

For more information about the National Joint Utilities Group please go to www.njug.org.uk.

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For further information or to arrange an interview please contact the NJUG press office at pressoffice@njug.org.uk or telephone 020 7340 1423.

**About The National Joint Utility Group (NJUG)**

NJUG is the only UK industry association representing utilities on street works issues. Our full members include the Energy Networks Association (representing electricity and gas companies), Water UK (representing water companies), National Grid, BT, Virgin Media and THUS plc. Our Associate Members are Clancy Docwra, Skanska McNicholas, Balfour Beatty, Morrison, Morgan Est, NACAP, PJ Keary, First Intervention, Carillion, Enterprise and Laing O'Rourke. Including members through trade associations, NJUG represents thirty-eight utility companies.

NJUG is the utility arm of the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee representing street works in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales known as HAUC (UK). Please see http://www.hauc-uk.org.uk/ for further information.

NJUG's focus is on promoting best practice, safety, quality and co-ordination of works as well as representing utilities in discussions with Government and other stakeholders on street work issues. Street works are essential activities carried out by electricity, water, gas and communications utilities to maintain, enhance, extend, renew and repair their networks.

**NJUG Board as of Friday 20th March 2009**

**Executive Members:**

Les Guest, National Grid – CEO
Mark Ostheimer, Virgin Media – Operations Director
Dave Turnbull, BT Openreach – Legal Director
Keith O'Brien, Thus, a Cable and Wireless Business – Membership Director
Rob Wesley, Water UK – Finance Director
Chris Perkins, Energy Networks Association, Electricity – Sustainability Director
To be appointed, Energy Networks Association, Gas

**Non-Executive Members**

Tony Cox, BT Openreach – Public Affairs Director
Tony Glover, Energy Networks Association – Communications Director
Tom Lambert, Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions – Performance Director