Distribution		
Date Distributed	5/11/2014	
For Immediate Direct Communication		
Type of incident	Release of naturally occurring gas from below ground level	
Project	OHL Project Name of person reporting the incident	
Tel No		
Date of incident	3/11/2014 Time of incident	10.50
E,H&S Liability: (x in the relevant box)	Statutory X Contractual Reputation	X Nil
Employing company		Piling & Foundation Contractor
Nature of incident/injury	Escape of unknown pocket of natural gas whilst drilling a pile foundation. No injury loss or damage occurred.	
Details of incident	A contractor was working for consultant on behalf of a major client installing foundations for a new 400kv OH transmission line just East of Stirling in Scotland. The current OH line tower location is in the middle of an open field. The nearest property a remote farm is approx. 150m away. On Friday 31st Oct a 300mm diameter pile had been drilled down to 25m depth, uncompleted this was left in a safe condition over the weekend. Work recommenced on the Monday approx. 10.30hrs following the piling rig receiving its annual thorough examination. The next stage of the pile construction required the permanent casing to be extended (1.5m sections) and a welded joint completed. During the welding process the rig operator noted a plume of vapour emitting from the top of the pile casing 2m above ground level. Personnel withdrew and flames were noted at the top of the casing. The engineer was informed immediately and the emergency action plan was put into place. The flames burned intermittently for approx. 10 minutes by which time the fire service arrived and flame had extinguished itself. The area was made safe. Gas readings taken in the mouth of the drilled pile showed an out of range reading (% LEL) for Methane. No readings were noted in the breathing zone, the gas is lighter than air and is diluting naturally. Scottish Gas Networks attended site as a precaution. They confirmed the known location of their nearest mains was approx. 56m away. A % by Volume gas reading confirmed the emission was 80%. All operations are on hold pending the investigation.	

Immediate actions taken

Site made safe – area fenced off, signage erected. Coal Authority contacted.

Scottish Gas Networks attended site (precautionary measure to confirm the location of their main was 56m away) Investigation ongoing.



----- undertook the following action (insert project name) in response to this report