



# 2013 ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT FOR THE NESI

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Report to the Commission

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*Commissioner,  
Engineering, Standards and Safety  
Division*

April 2014

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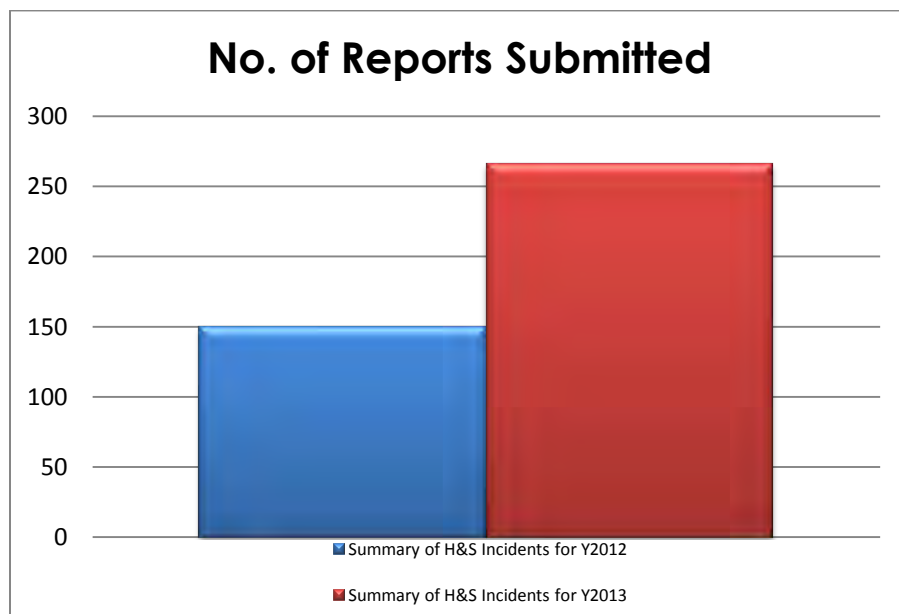
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the findings from the analyses of the health and safety reporting compliance of companies operating in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) in the Year 2013. The report takes into cognizance the accidents, incidents and near misses which were reported to NERC within the calendar year (January – December, 2013) and also accident investigations carried out by the operators and or NERC. It also considered other activities done by the Health and Safety Unit of the Engineering, Standards and Safety Division, including the Codification of the Health and Safety Manual, the NERC Health and Safety Week etc.

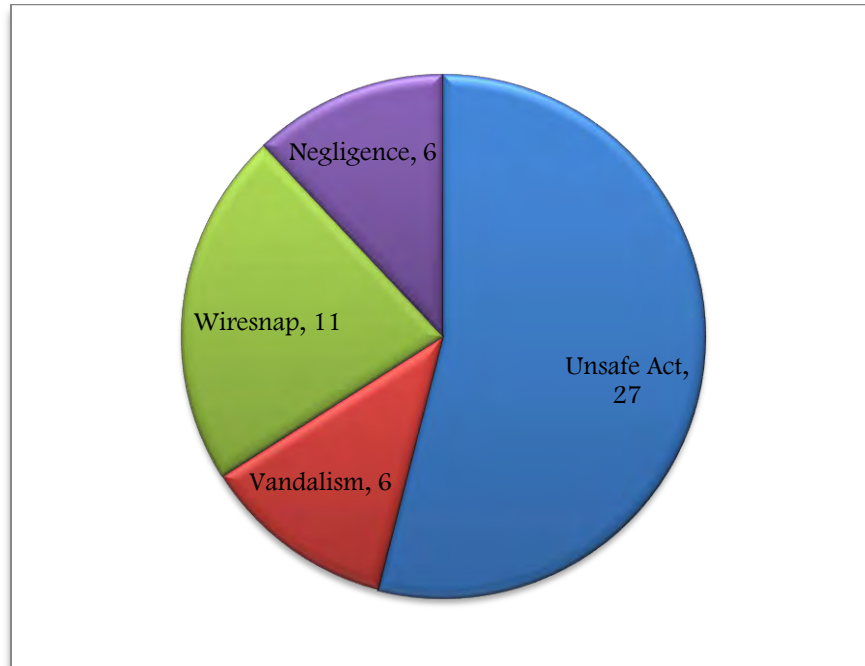
The report examined the compliance requirements which all licensed generation, transmission and distribution companies operating in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry are expected to comply with as mandated in the Reporting Compliance Regulations 2009. With a total of Three Hundred and Forty Eight (348) reports expected but Two Hundred and Sixty-Six (266) received between January and December 2013, the licencees representing 76% compliance on reporting. This is an increase in the level of compliance from industry operators from the Year 2012 which had a total of One Hundred and Fifty (150) submitted reports, representing a 43% compliance rate.



The total number of deaths recorded within the period under review is Eighty Three (83), with Benin Disco recording highest deaths of Eighteen (18). On the overall, the Distribution Companies accounted for about 94% of the deaths.

Further analysis showed the major causes of the deaths as:

- Wire snap,
- General negligence,
- Unsafe acts,
- Vandalism.



Accident investigations were also carried out by both the licensed Operators and the Commission within the year under review with a view to ascertaining causes of accidents and taking appropriate actions towards avoiding re-occurrence. The reason for lower accident investigations, as against previous years, can be attributed to better reportage (of Initial Accident Notifications and Full Accident Investigation Reports) from licencees as prescribed in the Codes and H&S Manual, and as monitored by the Commission.

In view of the high rate of incidents/accidents in the industry, several monitoring and inspection exercises were carried out in the Year 2013. Key findings are presented in this report.

A total sum of Twenty Two Million Seven Hundred and Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty One Naira (N22,732,821.00) was reported to have been spent by all the companies on Health and Safety during the period under review. It is our view that this amount is too meagre for an industry like this especially with the high rate of accidents being recorded.

Therefore, the Commission is working with licensed operators to include in their budgets and revenue requirements adequate funding of Health and Safety activities.

## INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) is empowered by the provisions of Section 81. Sub-section (1b) of the 2005 EPSR Act to develop such technical codes and manuals as may be required for the safe, reliable, and efficient operation of the system. In view of the above, the Commission developed, with the assistance of the USTDA, the Power Sector Health and Safety Standards Manual. Furthermore, on its own, the Commission, together with industry experts, codified the Health and Safety Manual.

The Commission by this power introduced a monthly Health and Safety reporting system. This is to enhance incident data collection, aid accident investigation and accident prevention as well as improve the general health and safety within the industry. The reporting system comprised of a dedicated Health and Safety Manager representing each company or licensee; designed templates for periodic reporting of safety incidents and accidents as it occurs.

Electricity is an essential service for all Nigerians. The job of generating and delivering electricity, used to power businesses and homes and to maintain the economic growth and prosperity of Nigerians, is carried out by thousands of workers in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) at various workplaces across the nation. The Commission is under obligation to ensure electricity is delivered to Nigerians in a manner that protects the safety and well-being of employees, contractors and the general public.

It is worthy of note that the Commission has established a robust reporting structure pertaining to Health and Safety in the power sector with the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), reporting templates, and frequency of reporting. It is also important to note that the Commission had directed all licensees to appoint Health and Safety Managers responsible for Health and Safety in line with the Fit and Proper Guidelines.

Electricity utilities have a long-standing commitment to the health and safety of their workers and to members of the public in the communities where they operate. While the electricity sector faces huge challenges of infrastructure decay and gross inadequacy in supply, improvement of workplace and public safety remains paramount in every circumstance.

Accountability of health and safety programs in all licensed utility companies rest with the CEOs, and should resonate with each employee, from the senior management to the linesmen and office assistants. Everyone is accountable to execute his/her health and safety responsibilities appropriate to their roles.

The purpose of this report is to describe the industry's Health and Safety performance trends and to establish how the industry is accomplishing both workplace and public safety improvements.

### **Objectives of the Report**

This report therefore gives the Commission and stakeholders a better insight into the activities of licencees with regards to Health and Safety issues, and other activities undertaken by the Commission relative to its mandate in the EPSR Act 2005. The following are the set objectives of this Annual Report:

1. Developing and maintaining risk-based health and safety management systems based on the Commission's Standards;
2. Implementing effective programme to reduce safety risks to workers and the public, while building a strong safety culture through progressive programming to engage workers and build buy-in and ownership in the safety improvement efforts;
3. Presenting to the Commission the performance of the industry based on the information collated from licencees.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY OF THE COMMISSION**

The Commission approved a Health and Safety Policy in 2013 to further institutionalize and enforce the Health and Safety Standards in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI). The policy specifies the requirements for safety within the NERC environment as well as within the industry.

The general policy is as stated below:

1. To provide adequate control and mitigation of the health, safety and environment risks arising from our work activities and that of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI).
2. To consult with our employee and employees in the NESI on matters affecting their health, safety and environment.
3. To provide and maintain safe working tools within the Commission.
4. To ensure safe handling and use of substances and other hazardous material within the Commission.
5. To provide information, instruction and supervision for employees on health, safety and environment issues.
6. To provide adequate training to all NERC employees on health, safety and environment. So as to ensure all employees are competent to do their Health, safety and environment tasks.
7. To prevent accidents and cases of work-related ill health within the Commission and NESI.
8. To maintain safe and healthy working conditions.
9. To review and revise this policy as necessary at regular intervals.

### **Responsibilities:**

1. Overall and final responsibilities for Health and Safety in NERC and the NESI are that of Engr. A. B Mohammed.
2. Day-to-day responsibility for ensuring this policy is put into practice is delegated to Mr. Abdulrasheed Busari, assisted by
  - i. Idris Idris Aminu,
  - ii. Chukwuma Ohaeri.
4. A safety committee has been constituted comprising of one staff each from the 6 Divisions. Every Member of the committee is to ensure that his or her Division abides by provisions of the Health, safety and environment policy.



5. All employees of NERC have to:
  - i. Co-operate with appointed committee members, supervisors and managers on health, safety and environment matters.
  - ii. Not interfere with anything provided to safeguard their health, safety and environment.
  - iii. Take reasonable care of their own health, safety and environment.
  - iv. Report all health, safety and environment concerns to an appropriate person as stated above.

### Arrangements

1. Risk assessment will be undertaken by Mr. Abdulrasheed Busari or any Safety Committee Member and reported to Engr. A. B. Mohammed.
2. Action required to remove/control risks will be approved by Engr. A. B. Mohammed and Mr. Abdulrasheed Busari and members of the Safety Committee will be responsible for ensuring action is taken and the hazard removed by set date. Regular assessment will be carried out as at when due.



Figure 1: Members of NERC Engineering, Standards and Safety Division during the H&S Week

## HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORTS FROM UTILITY OPERATORS

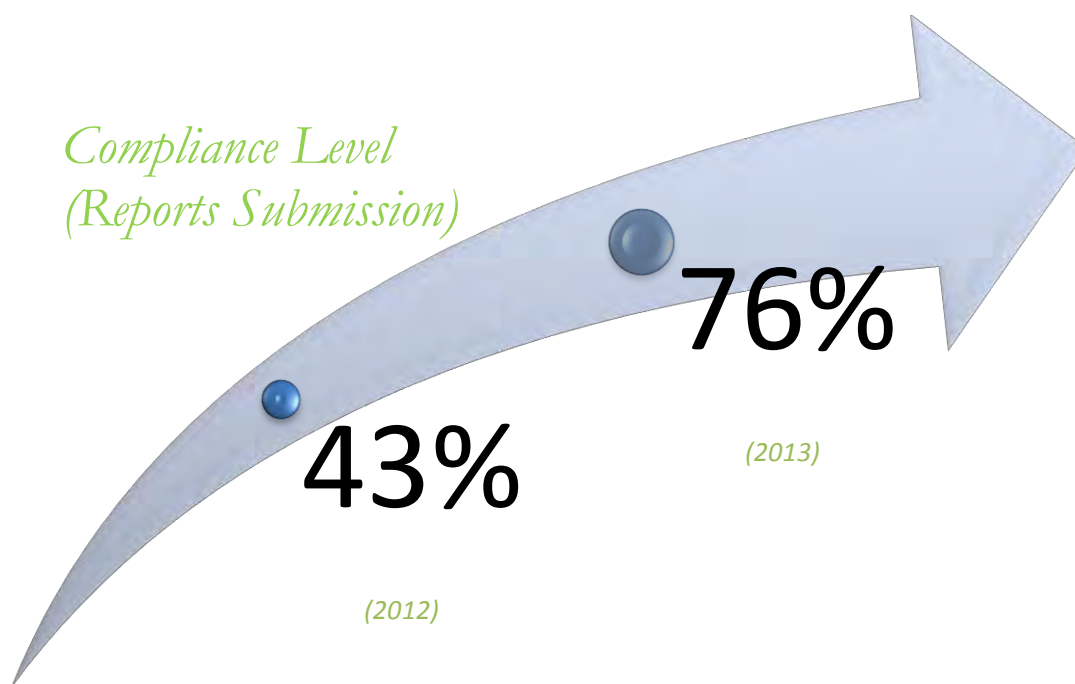
### Incident and Accident Data Collection, Evaluation, Analysis and Reporting

During the Y2013 calendar, Twenty-Nine (29) Companies operated within the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry as the Generation, Transmission or Distribution Companies. A total of twenty-nine reports were expected to be submitted each month. In total, between January and December 2013, three hundred and forty eight (348) reports were expected; however, only Two Hundred and Sixty-Six (266) reports were received, representing Seventy Six percent (76%) of the total expected. This shows a significant increase of forty three per cent (43%) compliance over 2012.

This compliance ratio can be seen to have increased due to the various proactive actions from NERC including enforcing reporting compliance - which would be aided with the completion of the Health and Safety Code, and continuous sensitization of Operators especially the H&S representatives at forum such as the H&S Meeting with NERC.

**This signifies a cent 43% point average compliance increase from 2012.**

The spreadsheet below (Table 1) outlines the reporting compliance of all Companies operating in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry as at December 2013. It also shows the monthly dispersion of reports received, number of injuries and deaths recorded per company and compliance percentage level to give an overview of Health and Safety incidents for the year 2013.



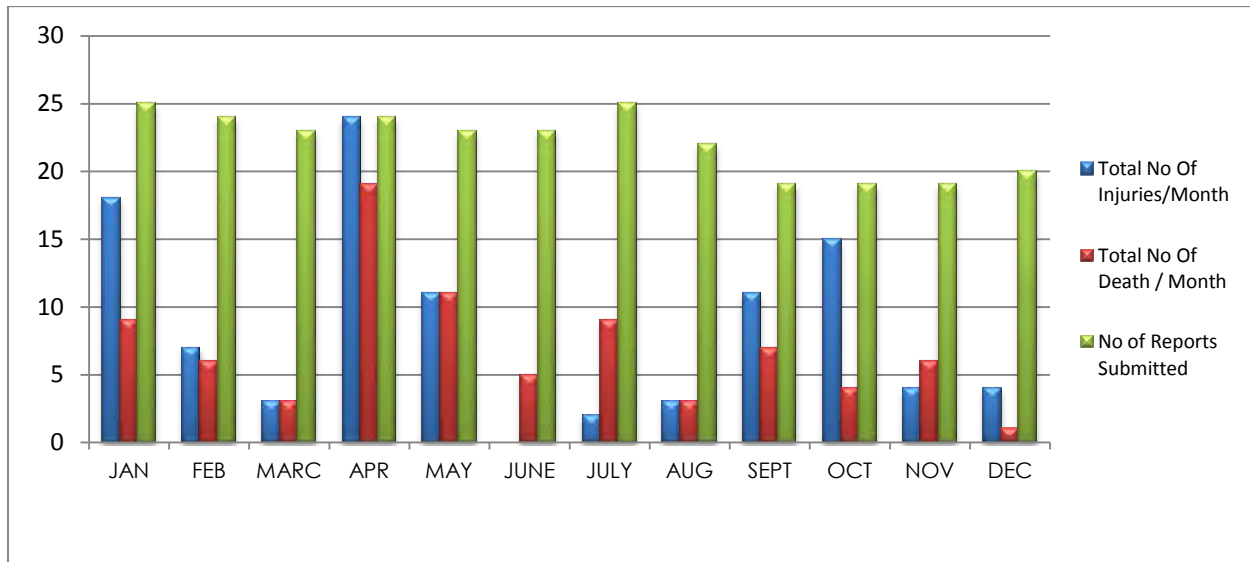
## Statistics

### SUMMARY OF HEALTH AND SAFETY INCIDENTS FOR THE YEAR 2013

															COMPLIANCE				
S/N	Company	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	No. Of Injuries Recorded/ Company	No Of Deaths Recorded / Company	No. Of Reports Expected	No. Of Reports Submitted	Percentage Compliance	
<b>Generation Companies</b>																			
1	Aes Power	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	12	11	92%	
2	Afam Power	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	12	11	92%	
3	Agip Power	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	12	11	92%	
4	Alscon Power	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0%	
5	Delta Power	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	8	67%	
6	Egbin Power	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	22	2	12	12	100%	
7	First Indep Power	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	12	0	0%	
8	Geregu Power	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	12	9	75%	
9	Ibom Power	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	7	58%	
10	Jebba Power	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	1	12	12	100%	
11	Kainji Power	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	0	12	12	100%	
12	Olorunosogo Power	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	5	42%	
13	Sapele Power	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	12	10	83%	
14	Shell Power	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	12	11	92%	
15	Shiroro Power	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	3	2	12	11	92%	
16	Omotosho Power Plc	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	0	12	12	100%	
<b>Transmission Company</b>																			
1	TCN	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	7	0	12	10	83%	
<b>Distribution Company</b>																			
1	Abuja Disco	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	4	12	10	83%	
2	Benin Disco	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	18	12	12	100%	
3	Eko Disco	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	5	3	12	9	75%	
4	Enugu Disco	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	12	8	67%	
5	Ibadan Disco	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	11	12	12	100%	
6	Ikeja Disco	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	9	17	12	11	92%	
7	Jos Disco	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	12	4	33%	
8	Kaduna Disco	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	21	14	12	11	92%	
9	Kano Disco	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	12	12	100%	
10	Nesco	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	12	10	83%	
11	Portharcourt Disco	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	12	8	67%	
12	Yola Disco	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	12	7	58%	
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>76%</b>	

Chart 1: Monthly H & S Reports

**Chart 1** below shows the combined results of the two hundred and sixty-six (266) reports received as it relates to the number of incidents that occurred during the period under review.

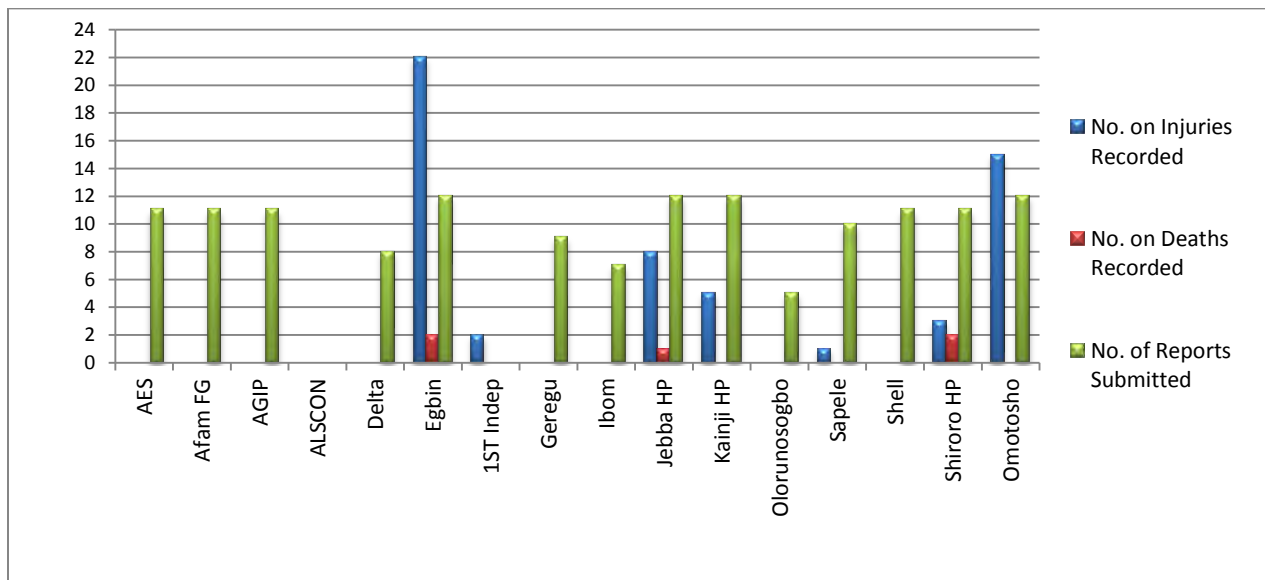


**Chart 2: Monthly H & S Reports**

The chart above shows an average of about 76% for reports submitted to the Commission. This indicates 266 reports were received against 348 expected reports, with a gap of 24%.

It can also be deduced from the chart above that high incidents rate were recorded between February and June, which subsequently resulted in high number of injuries and deaths.

**Chart 2** shows the number of deaths and injuries as well as the number of reports submitted as they relate to the Health and Safety incidents in the Generation Companies.

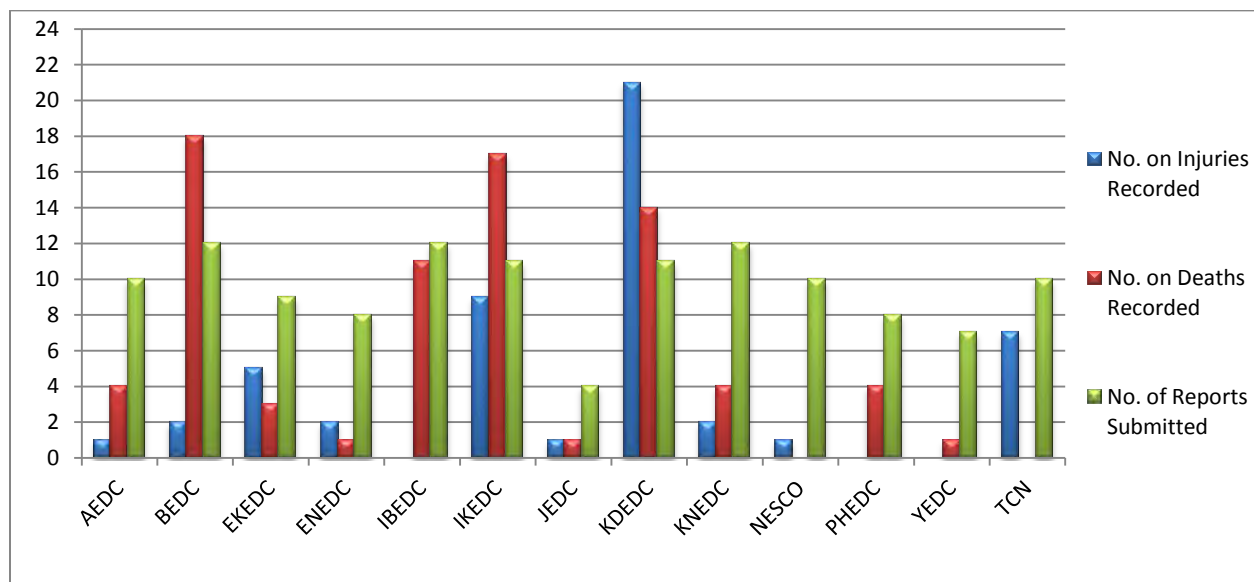


**Chart 3: Health and safety Incidents for Gencos**

The Gencos submitted a total of One Hundred and Fifty (150) Reports in Y2013. The number of incidences recorded at Egbin, Jebba and Shiroro were fully reported and analysed by the ES&S Division.

The incidence at Egbin, which involved two (2) persons, occurred in January 2013 while the incidence at Shiroro, also involving two (2) staff, occurred in February and May 2013. Both resulted in fatalities. The Jebba incidence was reported to the Commission as it occurred in January 2013 with one fatality involving a staff.

**Chart 3** shows the number of reports submitted including the deaths and injuries recorded in the Distribution Companies and TCN.



**Chart 4: Health and Safety Incidents for Discoms and TCN**

The above chart shows good compliance to submission of monthly Health and Safety reports by Distribution Companies and TCN.

From the reports received by the Commission, as illustrated in Chart 3 above, the fatality level in the distribution subsector remains worrisome and high. Noteworthy are Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) which recorded 18 deaths in the 2013 period, and Ikeja Electricity (IKEDC) with seventeen (17) deaths within same period under review.

The Commission shall ensure the downward movement of these figures until the industry achieves target of zero fatalities and injuries as well as minimal lost hours. Strict penalties are provided in the Health and Safety Code for non-compliance and the Commission is poised to strictly implement same.

## Accident Investigations

In line with the 2013 Divisional Workplan, two major accident investigations were carried out as per some critical accidents reported during the year. All the accident reports have since been submitted to the Commission and various recommendations implemented by the affected companies. Below are listed the various accident investigations carried out in 2013.

**Table 1: Accidents Investigated in 2013 and Status of Reports**

S/N	DATE	ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATED	STATUS
1.	15 April 2013	Snapped high-tensioned wire resulted in 9 deaths and hospitalization of some people in Kafanchan, Kaduna State	Investigated and Report Submitted
2.	17 March 2013	Electrocution of a Police Officer and 17 year old boy on 10 March 2013	Investigated and Report Submitted
3.	January to December 2013	Several accidents were fully investigated by the Licensees and investigation reports submitted to the Commission for review	Reports submitted to the Commission were reviewed, gaps identified and responsible Companies were directed to effect remedial actions as appropriate within stipulated timeframes

The Division received accident notifications within the time required in line with the reporting provisions of Section 94(2) (a) of the EPSR Act 2005 and also Part III, Section 3.11 of the Distribution Code.

The statutory requirement for receipt of notification, preliminary report and full report is from 48 hours to two weeks as provided in the Section 3.11 of the Distribution Code.

The Commission had received 105 accident notifications, mostly via text messages..

## QUARTERLY INDUSTRY HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICERS MEETING

As part of its regulatory functions, the Commission holds meetings with the industry representatives on health and safety matters, dubbed “Health and Safety Managers Meetings”. The Division held two (2) of such meetings in the Year 2013; first between the 25th and 26th March, 2013 and another between 28th and 29th August, 2013.

The meetings were attended by most Safety Representatives from the industry. Four groups of Licencees were represented in the meeting: Successor Generation Companies (Gencos), Transmission, Distribution (Discos) Companies and Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

The meetings reviewed targets earlier agreed upon between NERC and Industry Safety Officers to reduce accidents/incidence in the power sector. Participants made presentations on safety issues as they affect their individual Companies.

In furtherance of the objectives to reduce accidents/incidence to zero level in the sector amongst others, the meetings came up with various steps to tackling major concerns regarding Health and Safety in the NESI as contained in the two communiqués which most importantly require urgent attention by the various licencees to achieve the expected targets.

### Scope of the Meeting

The meeting focused discussions on safety issues facing the Companies individually and collectively. Furthermore, the meeting reviewed targets set in earlier quarterly meeting, level of compliance with safety requirements, challenges and lessons learnt and the way forward.



Picture 1: Participants at Health & Safety Managers Meeting



## Review of Set Targets

Several targets were agreed upon between NERC and the Licencees to drive the industry towards full compliance with Health and Safety Standards.

Although the KPIs and targets remain same, a new performance assessment format was designed for use as shown below:

**Table 2: New Performance Assessment Format**

S/N	Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Baseline Figure	Target	Actual Performance	Gap Analysis	Mitigation Action	Remarks
1.	Safety Monitoring, inspections and audits						
2.	Safety practices and the use of PPEs						
3.	Staff and public awareness program						
4.	Training of Health and Safety Officers and Reps						
5.	Reduction of work related injuries to staff and public						
6.	Reduction of work related deaths of staff and members of the public						
7.	Response to monthly health and safety incident reports						
8.	Notification of accidents						
9.	Final reports of accidents investigations						

It is expected that going forward, all licensees will use this template to report on their performance on Quarterly basis.

## **Presentations/Performance Review**

All the Licencees as well as NERC made presentations at the meeting. NERC presented on Compliance with Reporting Obligations; Rendition of Monthly Safety Returns and Review of Safety Performance of the Companies and Accidents Reporting – Minimum Standards.

While, participants made presentations based on the above mentioned targets, the criteria used for evaluating or assessing the Companies' performances are:

1. Monthly Reporting of Health & Safety Activities of the Company with prescribed format and within the timeframe set by NERC,
2. The implementation of agreed targets,
3. The implementation of the 2012 Communiqué.



**Picture 2: Cross Section of Participants at H&S Managers Meeting**

## **Communiqué Issued At the Meeting**

The meeting came up with a number of areas of concern that require urgent attention for Companies to quickly and adequately address. See appendix 4.

## Challenges Faced By Companies

The Presentations made by the various Companies highlighted multiple challenges and grey areas. Most challenges were common to all licencees while some were peculiar to the group of licencees; the Gencos, Discos, etc. Some of the common challenges faced by majority of the Companies include:

1. Poor funding of health and safety activities,
2. Only few Companies provided Operational Vehicles for Health & Safety activities,
3. Inadequate Training of Health and Safety Managers,
4. Inadequate Office equipment such as computer systems,
5. Inadequate provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and non compliance to usage,
6. Health & Safety Offices being managed by non-professionals,
7. No proper reporting structure; as such the designated safety Representatives do not report to the Safety Managers.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY/NETWORKS MONITORING AND INSPECTION

The Division carried out Health and Safety/Networks Monitoring exercise in Y2013 in line with the 2013 Divisional Work Plan schedule. This was necessary because the performance and operational reports collated monthly, quarterly and yearly from the operators since inception of the Commission have shown that most accidents are due to general negligence on the part of the electricity workers and the public as well, unsafe acts being carried out by the Distribution Companies, and wire snapping due to old and ageing equipments and networks, therefore the need for such an exercise.

The Engineering, Standards and Safety (ES&S) Division therefore embarked on a Monitoring and Inspection exercise in the light of above and as part of its duty to ensure that electricity supply is safe, affordable, reliable and available.



supply is safe, affordable, reliable and available.

The exercise which involved eight (8) staff of the Commission, drawn primarily from the Health and Safety Unit and the Networks Unit of the Engineering, Standards and Safety Division, was conducted between February and December 2013.

The exercise was aimed at unveiling the causes of high rate of accidents, and overall integrity of the network in the Distribution Companies. And also show ways of improving their facilities and networks as well as get them to comply with standards laid down in the Codes and Manuals provided by the Commission. Listed below is a tabular representation of places visited and members of the various inspection teams.

Seven different Distribution Companies as well as five Transmission Regions of the TCN were selected and visited, with coverage spreading across the country for Monitoring and Inspection. The visited sites are:

1. Port Harcourt 132/33kV Transmission Station and PHEDC (PHC and Calabar)
2. Mando 330/132/33kV Transmission Station and KEDDC (Sokoto)
3. Ganmo 132kV Transmission Substation and IBEDC (Ilorin BU)
4. Ajah 330/132kV Transmission Station and EKEDC (Lagos Island)
5. Akangba 330/132kV Transmission Station and IKEDC (Lagos Mainland)
6. Kano 330/132kV Transmission Station and KNEDC (Kano City)

## Guidelines to Inspection

The Monitoring and Inspection teams had undergone a mock review and rehearsal for a week prior to the exercise, at the Commission's Head Office.

The teams, having been grouped as shown in Table 3 below, were reminded of the imperative to adhere to the Staff Handbook for conduct, both within and outside the Commission.



The guidelines used by the Commission in carrying out this exercise included:

- Review of the Health and Safety Manual, the Distribution Code, and the E7(CAP 106)
- The Networks aspect included a combination of the E7 (CAP 106) and the Distribution Code.
- Templates for:
  - Health & Safety Inspection
  - Networks Inspection

## Inspection Teams

**Table 3: Health & Safety/Networks Monitoring and Inspection Team Schedule**

S/No.	Inspection Area	Date	Team
1.	Port Harcourt 132/33kV Transmission Station and PHEDC (PHC and Calabar)	04/03/13 – 08/03/13	Engr. Khadijah Akanbi; Sunday Obi; Idris Idris A.; Lawal Lawal
2.	Mando 330/132/33kV Transmission Station and KEDDC (Sokoto)	18/03/13 – 22/03/13	Engr. Khadijah Akanbi; Sunday Obi; Idris Idris A.; Lawal Lawal
3.	Ganmo 132kV Transmission Substation and IBEDC (Ilorin BU)	20/05/13 – 24/05/13	Engr. Khadijat Akanbi; AbdulRasheed Busari; Sunday Obi; Idris Idris A.
4.	Ajah 330/132kV Transmission Station and EKEDC (Lagos Island)	19/08/13 – 23/08/13	Engr. T. S. G. Wudil; Sunday Obi; Idris Idris A.
5.	Akangba 330/132kV Transmission Station and IKEDC (Lagos Mainland)	07/10/13 – 11/10/13	Engr. Khadijah Akanbi Idris Idris A. Lawal Lawal
6.	Kano 330/132kV Transmission Station and KNEDC (Kano City)	04/12/13 – 08/12/13	Engr. T. S. G. Wudil; Engr. Khadijah Akanbi; Sunday Obi; Idris Idris A.

## **Actions and Outcomes of the Inspection and Monitoring Exercise**

The Inspection and Monitoring Exercise undertaken by the ES&S Division has, no doubt, bolstered the Commission towards achieving its key mandates of promoting safe and reliable electricity supply. The deliberate reinforcement of the networks by the distribution companies due to the Commission's monitoring and enforcement efforts has clearly shown the Commission's stride in the industry.

Key among the major outcomes achieved during the 2013 monitoring exercise can be summarised below as:

1. Provision of more and better Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) by the various licencees inspected or re-inspected.
2. Better skill sets and safety awareness resulting to more network activities, but lesser number of accidents.
3. Cleaner network and licensee working environment amongst inspected or re-inspected licencees.

The Commission, however, is nowhere close to its desired position in achieving accident-free electricity industry. The licencees inspected were generally sent recommended actions for remedy based on the inspections as follows:

1. Maintain clean and clear distribution substation facilities,
2. Provide fencing, key and lock on all distribution substation facilities,
3. Ensure functional earthing systems in all distribution substations, especially wire-mesh fenced facilities.
4. Ensure adequate and the right type of PPEs for staff of Distribution Companies.
5. The advocacy and civil enforcement of clearances away from electricity installations.
6. Ensuring conducive working environment for the staff and clients of all licensee offices.
7. Create more awareness and education to the public on Health and Safety issues.

## NERC HEALTH & SAFETY WEEK

As part of its 2013 workplan, the ES&S Division, in liaison with the F&MS Division organized and held the NERC Health and Safety Week. The H&S Week aimed at sensitizing the Staff and Commissioners of NERC on Health and Safety around workplaces, and even homes and the environment.

The Health & Safety Week included lectures and training of NERC Staff and other Adamawa Plaza occupants. The week was themed 'Workplace Safety, Emergency Evacuation Drills Procedure and Preparedness Management Program' and held from 10th to 12th December, 2013 at the premises of the Adamawa Plaza, CBD, Abuja.

The program was held in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other stakeholders including the Fire Service Office of the FCT, the Nigeria Police, Red Cross, and the Nigeria Security & Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC).

Participation in the safety sensitization workshop, lectures and fire drills was mandatory for staff of the Commission's headquarters as well as other occupants of the Adamawa Plaza. The program started with a Declaration of the NERC Safety Week and the unveiling of NERC Safety Policy at the site. There was a Pre-Evacuation Inspection of Adamawa Plaza Building and a further Implementation of Correctional Plan Post Pre-Evacuation Inspection of the Adamawa Plaza Building.







Picture 3: The NSCDC Official and DGM (ES&S) During the Safety Drill

The program also included **HSE Sensitization Lectures** as described in the table below:

Table 4: Lectures Delivered at NERC H&S Week 2013

S/NO.	LECTURE:	ADMINISTERED BY:
1.	Emergency Evacuation Drill	NEMA
2.	Fire Safety at home and work place	FCT Fire Service
3.	Bomb and Terrorisms threat	Police Bomb Disposal Unit
4.	Security Tips at Home and Workplace	NSCDC, FCT Command
5.	Basic First Aid and Burns	Nigerian Red Cross

The NERC Health and Safety week continued with an “Emergency Evacuation Drill Exercise” for All Occupants of Adamawa Plaza on Thursday, 12th December 2013, which was administered by NEMA together with the Police, Fire Service, Red Cross, and the NSCDC.

The program, which was covered by the press, was adjudged a huge success.

A comprehensive report was jointly written by NEMA, NERC, the Nigeria Fire Service, NSCDC, and the Red Cross highlighting the gaps identified during the pre-evacuation inspection of the Adawama Plaza. These gaps are to be closed up by the Commission, owners of the building and other occupants.

## CHALLENGES

As more progress is made by the Commission towards achieving its set goals, the level of safety standards obtained so far has not come without major challenges. Some of the challenges still faced by the Division in achieving these objectives include:

### **i. Accurate Data Reporting**

The purpose of data reporting is to strengthen the collective effort of having a safe industry and not to witch-hunt or serve penalty notices.

However, the quality of reporting is below the industry standards obtainable worldwide. Majority of reports expected were either received very late or not received at all. The industry operators will have to improve on sincere, accurate and prompt reporting if the objective of world safety standard is to be achieved.

The reports are to be submitted in the manner prescribed by codes and regulations of the Commission.

### **ii. Enforcement**

This is the most crucial of challenges being faced. The Commission is still being restrained by the absence of up to date Health and Safety code for the power industry as at Year 2013. However, as soon as the Health and Safety Code is approved, the Commission should be in position to enforce non-compliance by licensees.

### **iii. Safety Awareness Campaign**

All licencees are required to step up their safety awareness campaign programs to sensitize the public and industry workers on safety issues such as right of way, safety culture e.t.c.

Other major challenges encountered in respect of Health and Safety in the NESI include:

- Inadequate and hard-to-verify information from licencees
- Reluctance of general public to report cases, either in the open or through whistle blowing.
- Insufficient manpower and resources necessary to undertake investigations into all fatalities.
- Right-of-Way encroachment by the public

#### iv. Safety Trainings

The Commission is working to institutionalise structured Health and Safety Training programs for all categories of Operators in the electricity industry and to also sensitize, update and direct the work attitude of the staff and personnel in the NESI to safety consciousness.



## CONCLUSION

The following steps are being taken by the Commission in order to achieve a long term positive result on Health and Safety in the industry.

1. Completion of the codification of the Health and Safety Standards Manual.
2. Partnership program between NERC and OSHA/NEMA as proposed in the ES&S 2014 work plan.
3. Commencement of the safety audit exercise of the licensee's facilities and certifications.
4. Continuous health and safety training for NERC staff.
5. Ensure all industry stakeholders/operators, upon the enactment of the codes, have a practicable Health and Safety policy statement and standards compliance program in place. This will encourage absolute commitment and help NERC to monitor adherence to the code.
6. Embark on continuous health and safety sensitisation program for industry operators and members of the public.
7. Continuous monitoring and inspection of Distribution and Generation Companies operating in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry.