

UK WATER INDUSTRY RESEARCH LIMITED

Collaborative, Impartial Research

EXPLORING GOOD PRACTICE IN TRUNK MAINS PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE TO REDUCE MAJOR INCIDENT RISK

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VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Chaired by *Jo Parker, Watershed Associates* and *Dr Joe Sanders, RPS*.

Large diameter mains are critical to delivering reliable and resilient water supplies to customers. Failures can be highly disruptive, with major consequences including widespread supply interruptions, impact on associated ODI's, consequential damage and public safety risk.

Significant cost pressures on companies, and the high costs of replacing these assets, mean that there is an increasing need to ensure effective preventative maintenance to prolong asset life and reduce the risks and/or impact of failures. Current industry maintenance practice for large water mains is understood to be varied and largely reactive. Knowledge, experience and industry wide good practice guidance around the application, effectiveness and benefits of risk based scheduled preventative and linear maintenance-based approaches appears lacking.

This UKWIR workshop is being run on a virtual platform by the contractor, RPS, and will bring together experts to share and discuss their knowledge and experiences regarding appropriate inspection and maintenance of large diameter trunk mains and fittings. The workshop will explore risk based preventative and predictive inspection and maintenance (including those used by other utilities) and linear maintenance approaches, which consider trunk mains assets in their entirety and wider context, rather than focusing on individual asset components (i.e. particular valve types) in isolation. The goal is to encourage more efficient ways of working within water companies in this area, improve practice and ODI impact and, ultimately, reduce major incident risk. The detailed outputs of the workshop will be shared to the benefit of the whole industry and to help understand and document good practice approaches to trunk mains preventative maintenance.

This workshop will be an opportunity to share knowledge and skills from across the industry and other allied industries. It will be of interest to water company asset managers, network performance managers and operational staff working in maintenance and repair in addition to valve and fittings manufacturers.