Mutual Energy: working for customers

Mutual Energy Limited (MEL) is one of Northern Ireland’s most important energy companies, owning and operating £500 million in strategic energy infrastructure assets on behalf of Northern Ireland’s energy consumers. Its assets are the Scotland to Northern Ireland gas pipeline, the Belfast gas transmission pipeline and the Moyle electricity interconnector. The company has also been awarded the licences to build the gas network to the west of Northern Ireland, in partnership with SGN. MEL’s assets are owned under the mutual model, with all the associated cost savings passed on to Northern Ireland’s energy customers.

Benefits of membership

Membership represents an excellent opportunity to gain experience in a corporate governance environment and to represent the interests of consumers. Membership offers an exciting opportunity to get involved in a company embarking upon two of the largest construction projects in Northern Ireland. It will also provide a forum in which to learn more about the Northern Ireland energy industry, and in particular, issues around financing of energy infrastructure assets. Membership is unlikely to involve a significant time commitment and whilst the role is not remunerated, reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

Governance role of members

As a mutual company, Mutual Energy has members, who perform a similar governance role to shareholders in a public limited company, other than they have no financial interest in the company. The board of directors is accountable to the members for the management of the company’s business. Members, therefore, play an important role within the company with responsibility for scrutinising performance against commercial and other targets, as well as against energy industry benchmarks for quality of service and cost efficiency.

Duties of members

Members fulfil their governance role by receiving regular reports on the company’s performance and by participating in members’ conferences and in Annual General Meetings of the company. Members are responsible for approving certain changes to the company’s constitution, approving the appointment, re-appointment and removal of Directors and approving the company’s annual report and accounts. Members serve for a period of three years.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Member of Mutual Energy - It has been a pleasure representing Northern Ireland’s consumers whilst being a stimulating and engaging challenge that has enhanced my energy knowledge and honed my corporate governance skills.”

Noel Williams, Member

Invitation for new members

Mutual Energy is currently recruiting new members – this is an excellent opportunity for anyone wishing to learn more about / gain experience in a corporate governance role. For further information go to www.mutual-energy.com or call Roisin Clarke on 028 9043 7580.

Members play important role in major energy company