

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update on Hunterston B

HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING,

1st September 2016 at the Lauriston Hotel, Ardrossan

Regulation

Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA)

SEPA has formally inspected the station in relation to its RSA Authorisation once since the last SSG meeting. On 26 July 2016, SEPA undertook an inspection looking at the station's disposals of radioactive waste to other persons in order to benchmark how the new variation is bedding in. No contraventions were noted. Another inspection has been scheduled for 17 August 2016 to look at the station's radioactive gaseous discharges. A verbal update will be given on the outcome of this inspection during the SSG meeting.

SEPA staff participated in a teleconference with EDF's internal regulator on 8 June 2016 in order to share inspection programmes and outcomes. SEPA staff also participated in a teleconference with the EA on 4 August 2016 in order to discuss common themes across the EDF fleet in the UK.

Pollution Prevention & Control (PPC)

There have been no issues relating to the station's PPC permit for its non-radioactive emissions from the emergency diesel generators, auxiliary boilers and waste oil burner since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Control of Major Accidents Hazards (COMAH)

There have been no issues relating to COMAH since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)

SEPA continues to take enforcement samples of the sewage treatment plant outfall due to a pH failure in October 2015. Samples taken since the failure have been compliant. Enforcement sampling will continue until at least October 2016.

European Union Emission Trading Scheme (EUETS)

There were no issues relating to the station's EUETS permit since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Events

There were no reportable incidents, complaints or non-compliance events affecting SEPA's interests at the station known to have occurred since the last meeting of the SSG at the time of writing this report.

SEPA is aware that there have been algal blooms in the Firth of Clyde, stretching from Loch Ryan in the south to the Kyles of Bute in the north. The blooms are due to an organism called *Karenia*, which is commonly referred to as the "red tide". This has generated a number of complaints to SEPA about discolouration. It has also resulted in the deaths of sand living organisms such as lugworms and has probably been responsible for the deaths of some fish, including those found at the mouth of the Fairlie Burn during the weekend of 6/7 August 2016. This incident was investigated by SEPA, and we believe that these are likely to have been the result of the algal bloom and not due to any radioactive discharge from Hunterston as was suggested by one complainant.

New SEPA Regulation Strategy

SEPA has published its new strategy for regulation, aimed at enabling the agency to tackle the 21st Century challenges facing Scotland's environment. The strategy, entitled "*One Planet Prosperity- Our Regulatory Strategy*", outlines SEPA's approach to delivering environmental protection and improvement in ways which will also create health benefits and sustainable economic growth. A key element of the strategy is to encourage and support businesses who seek to find innovative and efficient ways to go beyond standard levels of compliance while operating within Earth's capacity to support us. Copies of the strategy can be obtained from SEPA's website at www.sepa.org.uk.

Radioactivity in Food & the Environment (RIFE)

SEPA works together with the EA, NIEA and the FSA on the radiological monitoring of food and the environment, and in publishing the results. The latest Radioactivity in Food and the Environment report is the 18th report in the series and the 11th publication that all four organisations have produced in partnership.

The report aims to provide an in-depth assessment of radioactivity in food and the environment in the UK and the public's exposure to radiation. The report focuses on key information that demonstrates both that food remains safe and that the public's exposure to ionising radiation is within legal limits.

The latest edition (RIFE 20) covering 2014 has been published and electronic copies can be obtained from SEPA's website: www.sepa.org.uk under "*Environment/Radioactive Substances/Environmental monitoring and assessment/Reports*".

Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI)

The Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory (SPRI) is a publicly accessible electronic database of releases of pollutants to all environmental media and transfers of non-radioactive waste. SEPA intends that as far as practicable the Pollutant Release Inventory be the principle means by which information on Scottish pollutant releases and non-radioactive waste transfers is collected and made public. Wherever possible such information will be collected and presented by this one system.

The data for 2014, including that from Hunterston B, have been published and are available on SEPA's website: www.sepa.org.uk under "*Environment/Environmental data/SPRI*".

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