

**Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Report to the Chapelcross Stakeholders' Group
December 2017.**

Radioactive Substances Act 1993

Inspection

SEPA has undertaken two recent inspections at the Chapelcross site.

The first inspection (September 2017) focussed on the site's procedures and arrangements for the management of the top ducts removed during the decommissioning of the Heat Exchangers. This is an area of interest for SEPA given the practical difficulties the site has experienced with clearance monitoring in an area of high background radiation such as that associated with the Heat Exchangers.

The inspection focussed on the management procedures for the transfer of ownership of the ducts from the Heat Exchanger project team to the site's waste operations team and the supporting characterisation and sentencing of the ducts as low level waste.

SEPA found that the site's procedures are suitable to meet the requirements of their Authorisation and that they address the issue of ensuring waste was adequately characterised by waste operations to support its eventual disposal as solid low level radioactive waste.

The second inspection (October 2017) focused on the management of solid waste stored on site pending its disposal. The inspection found that waste was held in accordance with limitations and conditions of the site's Authorisation and, in particular, Best Practicable Means (BPM) was applied to minimise the generation of radioactive waste and dispose of it at times, in a form and a manner to minimise the radiological effects on the environment and members of the public.

Other Regulatory Interactions

SEPA held a series of technical discussions with the site focussing on a number of ongoing programmes:

- the decommissioning of the Chapelcross Processing Plant (CXPP),
- the design and construction of the Interim Storage Facility (ISF) for Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste (ILW),
- the development of the site's Radioactive Waste Management Case (RWMC),
- the development of the Advanced Vacuum Drying System (AVDS) and Modular ILW Encapsulation Plant (MILWEP).

The ongoing decommissioning of the CXPP will reduce significantly the discharge of gaseous tritium from the site. The AVDS and MILWEP are needed to support the retrieval, conditioning and packaging of ILW on the site. The site's ISF is intended to store conditioned and packaged ILW on site in line with the Scottish Government Policy on Higher Activity Waste.

In all instances the site is making good progress with these programmes. The site's application for a variation to their Authorisation is in support of the development of the ISF, AVDS and MILWEP and their associated gaseous waste discharge points. The determination of this application is ongoing and no major issues have been identified by SEPA.