

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update on Hunterston A

HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING,

6th September 2018 at the Waterside Hotel, Seamill

Regulation

Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA)

SEPA staff have formally inspected the Hunterston A site in relation to its RSA Authorisation once since the last SSG meeting. On 09 August 2018, SEPA carried out an inspection of the design and operation of the site's ventilation system associated with the authorised discharge of gaseous radioactive waste. No contraventions of the limitations and conditions in the site's Authorisation were found.

Pollution Prevention & Control (PPC)

There have been no issues relating to the site's PPC permit.

Events

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

Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018

The new regulations come into force on 1 September 2018. Only radioactive substances fall into the new regulations at this time; the other "regimes" (water, PPC and conventional waste) will migrate over in due course. Although any existing authorisations will be deemed as permits under the new regulations when they come into force, SEPA intends to transition the existing RSA nuclear authorisations within the next year. This transition will not involve any changes to the existing authorisations' limits or disposal routes, other than that allowed under the standard conditions.

SEPA's Nuclear Sector Plan

In accordance with One Planet Prosperity, our regulatory strategy, SEPA has established a number of sectors to focus our environmental protection work to achieve our statutory functions as well as helping to improve the health and well-being of people in Scotland and contributing to sustainable economic growth.

One of the identified new sectors is the Nuclear Sector. SEPA is currently refining its ideas for a sector plan and intends to put the draft plan out for public consultation in early 2019.

Radioactivity in Food & the Environment (RIFE)

SEPA works together with the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Food Standards Scotland and Food Standards Agency on the radiological monitoring of food and the environment, and in publishing the results. The reports aim to provide an in-depth assessment of radioactivity in food and the environment in the UK and the public's exposure to radiation. The reports focus 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 22) covering 2016 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, SPRI 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 2016, including that from Hunterston A, have been published and are available on SEPA's website: www.sepa.org.uk under "*Environment/Environmental data/SPRI*".

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