

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update on Hunterston A

HUNTERSTON SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING,

1st March 2018 at the Waterside Hotel, Seamill

Regulation

Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA)

SEPA has formally inspected the Hunterston A station in relation to its RSA Authorisation once since the last SSG. This looked at the site's arrangements for the management of portable liquid containers (including IBCs). The inspection found that the site had adequate procedures in place to ensure the effective management of these containers. No contraventions or non-compliances were noted.

Events

Magnox contacted SEPA on 14th February 2018 to report a potential environmental event at the Hunterston A site (HNA).

The Cartridge Cooling Pond (CCP) at HNA consists of the main Enclosure and the Fuel Handling Area. Each is served by its own ventilation system and stack sampling equipment. Both discharge via an authorised gaseous discharge outlet to the environment. Magnox identified a fault in the Fuel Handling Area ventilation system which required both the system and stack sampling equipment to be switched off to effect repairs. The Enclosure ventilation system and stack sampling equipment has continued to operate as normal.

The site's Environmental Maintenance Schedule for the CCP includes the requirement for monthly monitoring of the Differential Pressure (DP) across the ventilation system HEPA filters. As the Fuel Handling Area ventilation system was switched off the monitoring of the DP across the HEPA filters was not performed in January 2018.

Magnox had not identified, at that time, that both the ventilation systems are covered by the same activity in the site's Environmental Maintenance Schedule. As a result the site has reported to SEPA that there was no monthly monitoring of the DP across the ventilation system HEPA filters servicing the main Enclosure of the CCP during January 2018.

Having identified this failure Magnox have since checked the DP across the HEPA filters associated with the ventilation system for the main Enclosure. They are confirmed by Magnox to be within their acceptance criteria for operation.

Throughout this event the main Enclosure stack sampling equipment has continued to operate and has returned results for January 2018 that are comparable with previous months. Magnox report that there is no indication, to date, that this event has resulted in an increase in volume or total radioactivity of the gaseous waste discharged from the CCP.

Magnox are working to resolve the issue by separating the maintenance activities, within the site's Environmental Maintenance Schedule, for the main Enclosure from those for the Fuel Handling Area of the CCP to avoid any repetition of this event.

On the basis of information supplied by Magnox to SEPA to date, SEPA is confident that there is no increased radiological risk to the environmental or to the public associated with this event. SEPA will be inspecting the site's Environmental Maintenance Schedule in early 2018.

Compliance for 2017

SEPA assesses compliance with the conditions and limits associated with the permits, authorisations and licences issued to the station in accordance with our Compliance Assessment Scheme (CAS). The assessments are made on an on-going basis throughout the year and an end of year summary score is published. For 2017, the station's compliance with its RSA authorisation has been assessed as "excellent".

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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