

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update on Hunterston A

6th June 2019 at the Waterside Hotel, Seamill

Regulation

Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations (EASR) - Radioactive Substances

SEPA undertook an inspection in relation to the EASR permit for Hunterston A on 9th May. The inspection focussed on the sites environmental monitoring programme. The site is required to undertake a programme of environmental monitoring to demonstrate compliance with the limitations of their permit. The inspection focussed both on the scope of the current programme as well as the site's periodic review of the application of Best Practicable Means in relation to environmental monitoring.

SEPA has also had meetings with the site to discuss a number of technical issues. These include the application of Best Practicable Means to the management of a novel aqueous waste stream and pre-application discussions relating to the variation of the site's permit required to operate the proposed solid intermediate level radioactive waste encapsulation plant and the Intermediate Level Waste Storage Facility.

Pollution Prevention & Control (PPC)

There have been no issues relating to the station's PPC 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's Nuclear Sector Plan

The Nuclear power generation and decommissioning sector plan was published on 15 May and is available at <https://sectors.sepa.org.uk/nuclear-power-generation-and-decommissioning-sector-plan/>. The plan, which focuses on the civil nuclear sites in Scotland, details how SEPA is going to regulate the sector and work with it to protect and improve the environment.

Decommissioning guidance and the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations

In July 2018 SEPA, the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, jointly published "*Managing Radioactive Waste on Decommissioning Nuclear Sites: Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation*" (available [here](#)). Our guidance ("the GRR"), sets out the requirements against which SEPA will regulate operators' plans for waste management and clean-up during decommissioning of nuclear sites.

SEPA has now issued EASR permits to operators of all nuclear sites in Scotland, requiring them to develop a waste management plan (WMP) and a site-wide environmental safety case (SWESC). The WMP must show that the operator will achieve the best overall balance between public, worker and environmental safety, and other economic and social factors, when deciding how to manage radioactive waste and contamination on their site. The SWESC must show that the operator will restore their site to a satisfactory state, to allow them to surrender their EASR permit. SEPA will continue to regulate any disposals of radioactive waste in accordance with EASR, and with our established standards for protection of people and the environment.

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 23) covering 2017 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*". The total dose for the critical group around Hunterston for the year was 0.023 millisieverts, which is broadly similar to previous years, and is about 2% of the annual dose limit (1 millisievert).

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 2017, including that from Hunterston A, have been published and are available on SEPA's website: www.sepa.org.uk under "*Environment/Environmental data/SPRI*".

David Stone
Specialist 1- Radioactive Substances Unit
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