

## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

### SEPA Update on Hunterston A

5th September 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 11 July 2019. The inspection focussed on the site's management and maintenance of their aqueous discharge system. The disposal of liquid effluent from the Hunterston A site no longer occurs with the same frequency as when the site was operational. The inspection looked at whether the maintenance schedule for the system is still fit for purpose. No issues were identified with the management and maintenance of the aqueous disposal system.

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. SEPA has received a revised BPM assessment from site and, at this time, has identified no issues with their preferred option.

The site has applied to SEPA for a variation to their permit under EASR 2018. Currently the site is permitted to dispose of radioactive gaseous waste via a number of 'authorised gaseous outlets' (or nominated stacks) as specified in Table 2 of the HNA permit EAS/P/1173609. A number of additional gaseous discharge points need to be added to the permit. These are to facilitate the operation of the site's newly constructed Solid Intermediate Level Waste Encapsulation facility (SILWE) and the associated Intermediate Level Waste Store (ILWS). The new operation of the new outlets will not result in an increase to the overall site limits for gaseous discharge.

##### 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.

#### 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](http://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](http://www.sepa.org.uk) under "*Environment/Environmental data/SPRI*".

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16 August 2019