

**Hunterston SSG
6 June 2019 Meeting**

Scottish Government Update

IAEA IRRS visit to UK October 2019

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) has been established to strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of national regulatory frameworks for nuclear, radiation, radioactive waste and transport safety whilst recognising the ultimate responsibility of each country to ensure safety in these areas.

The IRRS process sets out to accomplish this purpose through enabling structure peer review of national regulatory technical and policy approaches against IAEA safety standards to propose recommendations and suggestions; and sharing of relevant good practices.

The UK Government requested an IRRS mission in 2018 and it was agreed that one would take place in 2019.

Work is now progressing on the forthcoming visit to the UK by members of the IAEA in October 2019. Input is being organised by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) co-ordinating the Government responses including the Devolved Administrations (DA's).

There was a preparatory meeting in April 2019. This was to finalise which sites and areas of regulation the IAEA members will focus upon in October 2019. All of the sites chosen are in England and Wales. However the areas of regulation cover the whole of the UK including Scotland.

National Narrative on In-Situ Disposal

This document is being drafted to assist nuclear sites in their engagement with local stakeholders during the various stages of decommissioning. This is following the publication of the Government response to the consultation on the 'regulation of nuclear sites in the final stages of decommissioning and clean-up.

The proposed document will provide a starting point for stakeholders to get a better understanding of how Government Policy sets out a framework for all relevant parties that enables better decision making about the management of large volumes of low level radioactive wastes arising from the decommissioning of nuclear sites, and how the best overall outcome for any particular site might range from some radioactivity remaining on site, through to the removal of most or all radioactivity.

Regulation of Nuclear Sites in the final stages of decommissioning and clean-up

Scottish Government (SG) officials met with SEPA on 22 February 2019. The meeting was to discuss the possible amendments to secondary legislation in Scotland which will be required following the proposed changes to the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65). The current legislation in Scotland is the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR). Further meetings are planned once the position in respect of the changes to NIA65 become clearer.

Review of emergency environmental radiation monitoring

There is a review underway of the current position in respect of the emergency environmental radiation monitoring which would take place following a release from a nuclear site or other radiation incident. This is being led by the Public Health England Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (PHE CRCE) on behalf of BEIS. The review is looking at the capacity and capability of various organisations who would be involved in the collection, analysis and result reporting of samples collected during a release or radiation incident. In Scotland this is being supported by SEPA and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) together with this policy area of the Scottish Government.

BEIS Liquid Discharge Review

UK Government are carrying out a review, via commissioning a report from PHE, on the approach to regulating liquids. The nuclear industry has queried in the past the lack of an 'out-of-scope' value for liquid discharges. The aim is to ensure regulation is fit for purpose, reflects national/international standards, protects the public and creates no unnecessary burden for industry. Five outputs are expected from the review; (i) a statement of current approach (ii) a review of international policy (iii) a review of liquid discharge regulation in other countries/lessons learned (iv) review of issues identified by business, and (v) proposals for a way forward. Timing of the review will also put UK government in a position to influence the IAEA review on clearance levels for solid and liquid wastes, and new targets for OSPAR. Although this is a devolved matter, it is hoped a consistent approach can be agreed across environment agencies and governments/DA's.