

**Scottish Environment Protection Agency  
Report to the Chapelcross Stakeholders' Group  
December 2020.**

**Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR 2018).**

**Regulation**

Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations (EASR) - radioactive substances

SEPA staff have not physically inspected the station in relation to its EASR permit since the last SSG meeting in January 2020 due to the Covid-19 lockdown measures.

Full details of SEPA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic are available on our website at:

<https://coronavirus.sepa.org.uk/>.

SEPA has produced a temporary regulatory position statement on management of radioactive substances at nuclear sites during the COVID-19 pandemic and this is available online at:

<https://coronavirus.sepa.org.uk/regulatory-position/management-of-radioactive-substances-at-nuclear-sites-regulatory-position/>

SEPA continues to engage with Magnox Ltd on a regular basis, with formal updates being provided to SEPA by Chapelcross via a weekly teleconference. In addition, SEPA and the Chapelcross site have frequent interactions by telephone as required.

Chapelcross have provided SEPA with its contingency plan for the site in line with the requirements of the temporary position statement as requested. Subsequently, on 12 November 2020 SEPA received notification from the site that they had returned to a position of regulatory compliance with respect to SEPA regulatory position statement. The notification was accompanied by a supporting report.

SEPA has undertaken a number of telephone based inspections of the Chapelcross site. This has included an inspection which considered the site's radioactive waste fingerprint arrangements, focussing on waste associated with the ponds building. There were no non-compliances identified by the inspection.

SEPA has also inspected the site's arrangements for measuring and reporting gaseous discharges from the redundant reactor buildings on site. There were no non-compliances associated with this inspection.

**Events**

There has been no notification of any significant events at the Chapelcross site.

**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 25) covering 2019 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 all pathways and sources of radiation associated with the Chapelcross site was 0.007 mSv in 2019 which is less than 1% of the annual dose limit (1 MSv) and down from 0.019MSv in 2018.

### **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 2019, including that from Chapelcross, have been published and are available on SEPA's website: [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk) under "*Environment/Environmental data/SPRI*".

### **SEPA Household Survey into impact of Coronavirus on dietary consumption and recreational activity**

Periodically, SEPA undertakes a radiological habits survey around the nuclear licensed sites across Scotland. These surveys are studies into the components of an individual's diet and what food comes from the local area. Additionally, the surveys look at where local people spend their time in the area, whether it is beaches, rambling or simply walking the dog. This information is extremely useful to SEPA in determining where our environmental monitoring programmes should seek to gather samples or measurements in the environment around the nuclear licensed sites.

SEPA is aware that the coronavirus has had a major impact on the lives of everyone and we want to determine if this should lead to changes in our monitoring programme. Stirling University have been appointed by SEPA to undertake a short postal-survey of individuals across Scotland to determine if and how the coronavirus pandemic has impacted on availability of locally grown/caught and wild food. Some people have reported shortages of certain foods or that they are moving to growing more fruit and vegetables at home. We are also interested to discover if people are spending more time engaging in leisure pursuits or staying closer to home.

The results of this survey will assist SEPA to determine if our environmental monitoring programme around nuclear sites needs to be amended to take account of changing habits. Around 7000 surveys are being gathered in total from across Scotland. Should you not be randomly selected, but still wish to provide information an electronic survey will also be available and a link can be requested via [RSEnquiries@sepa.org.uk](mailto:RSEnquiries@sepa.org.uk).

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