

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update on Hunterston A

December 2020 by teleconference

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 September 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 Hunterston A via a weekly teleconference.

Magnox Ltd provided SEPA with Issue 3 of its contingency plan for the Hunterston A site in October in line with the requirements of the temporary position statement. This updated document states that the site started the return to normal operations; and stated that handover of the facilities for operation following return to service activities is controlled via quality plans. The document indicated where the site believed they had returned to compliance with individual conditions of the authorisation. The plan remains a living document and it is likely that it will be re-submitted by Magnox Ltd and reviewed by SEPA as required.

SEPA has undertaken, and will continue to undertake a number of telephone based inspections of the Hunterston A site. Since the last SSG meeting a telephone based site inspection was undertaken on 2nd October 2020, which considered the Hunterston A site fingerprint arrangements, focussing on the fingerprint arrangements for the pond. There were no non-compliances identified by the inspection, however a couple of areas were highlighted for future inspection, including demonstration of BPM associated with the future decommissioning of the pond structure, and a visit to inspect the facilities associated with decontamination of metal waste for recycling.

SEPA has been engaging with Magnox on a number of topics including:

- The demonstration of BPM with regards to a number of planned decommissioning projects on the Hunterston A site;
- Rainwater ingress into items of plant on the site; and
- Ensuring that appropriate maintenance has been carried out prior to any plant and equipment with an environmental function becoming operational post COVID site pause.

Events

There has been no notification of any significant events at the Hunterston A 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 under "*Environment/Radioactive Substances/Environmental monitoring and assessment/Reports*". The total dose for the critical group around Hunterston for the year was less than 0.005 millisieverts, which is broadly similar to previous years, and is about 0.5% of the annual dose limit (1 millisievert). The decrease in total dose in recent years has reflected a downward trend in the reported direct radiation.

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 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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