

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update on Hunterston A

3rd September 2020 by Zoom/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 March 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 have provided SEPA with its contingency plan for the Hunterston A site in line with the requirements of the temporary position statement. SEPA has reviewed the contingency plan and provided constructive comment to Magnox Ltd. The plan remains a living documents and it is likely that they will be re-submitted by Magnox Ltd and reviewed by SEPA as required. SEPA is also maintaining routine contact with the site to discuss any regulatory issues as they arise.

SEPA has planned to undertake a number of telephone based inspections of the Hunterston A site. The first of these, undertaken on 18th June 2020, focussed on the Hunterston A site's approach to characterising and reporting gaseous discharges from the de-fuelled reactors. There were no significant non-compliances identified by the inspection. However, SEPA has asked for a copy of the engineering report relating to the use of pressure and temperature transducers and the question remains whether the site can currently demonstrate BPM when assessing reactor breathing. SEPA intends to follow up on this issue when we can attend the site.

Events

There have been no notification of 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 24) covering 2018 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 0.005 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 and change in the representative person from 2017 was mostly due to a lower estimate of direct radiation from the site 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 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*".

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25 August 2020