

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update on Hunterston B

3rd September 2020 by Zoom/Teleconference

Regulation

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

SEPA staff have remotely inspected the station in relation to its EASR permit once since the last SSG meeting in June 2020. The inspection focused on establishing the status of outstanding non-Covid-19 issues. No contraventions were noted.

In addition, in order to monitor the situation and keep abreast of any environmental developments during the pandemic, the following teleconferences were set up and are continuing at the time of writing:

- Weekly meetings with the station's Environmental Safety Group;
- Fortnightly meetings with EDF's corporate environment department (GEM) along with the EA;
- Monthly meetings with the EA's EDF corporate and site inspectors.

Other interactions relating to radioactive substances include attendance at the following:

- Level 3 meeting with EDF internal regulator (INA) and EA on 9 June to discuss areas of common interest;
- Level 4 meeting with EDF to discuss defueling and decommissioning environmental issues on 24 June;
- Level 4 meeting with EDF and EA on 25 June to discuss EDF's progress in developing a Site Wide Environmental Safety Case (SWESC) and associated Waste Management Plan as set out in Management of Radioactive Waste from Decommissioning of Nuclear Sites: Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation (GRR);
- Level 3 meeting with EDF and EA on 6 July to discuss strategic regulatory issues across the EDF fleet;
- Level 4 meeting with EDF, ONR and EA on 19 August to discuss the defueling safety case progress;
- Level 4 meeting with EDF, ONR and EA to discuss radioactive waste management issues from a fleet perspective;
- Level 3 meeting with EDF and EA on 6 July to discuss strategic regulatory issues across the EDF fleet; and
- Level 4 meeting with EDF and EA on 27 August to discuss EDF's progress in developing a SWESC and associated Waste Management Plan as set out in the GRR.

SEPA has also received an application by EDF to vary the EASR permit to authorise the receipt of debris in the fuel flasks and subsequent transfer back to Sellafield. There is no change to the authorised aqueous and gaseous discharges as a result of this application. Due to the nature of the application, SEPA has decided that it does not require full public consultation.

Pollution Prevention & Control (PPC)

There have been no issues relating to the station's PPC permit for its non-radioactive emissions from the emergency diesel generators, auxiliary boilers and waste oil burner since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Control of Major Accidents Hazards (COMAH)

There have been no issues relating to COMAH since the last scheduled SSG meeting. Arrangements were put into place to allow higher quantities of hazardous chemicals to be stored on site in case of disruption to the supply chain during the Covid-19 lockdown measures.

Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)

There have been no issues relating to the station's CAR licences for non-radioactive liquid discharges to the water environment since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

European Union Emission Trading Scheme (EUETS)

There were no issues relating to the station's EUETS permit since the last scheduled SSG meeting. SEPA is currently carrying out a consultation on the proposed changes to the fees for this regime. The consultation can be viewed on the SEPA website.

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 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 B, have been published and are available on SEPA's website: www.sepa.org.uk under "*Environment/Environmental data/SPRI*".

Keith Hammond
Specialist 1- Radioactive Substances Unit
25 August 2020