

## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

### SEPA Update on Hunterston B

5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at the Waterside Hotel, Seamill

#### Regulation

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

SEPA staff have inspected the station in relation to its EASR permit three times since the last SSG report in September 2019:

- The inspection on 8 October 2019 focused on the environmental monitoring programme (District Survey). No contraventions were identified.
- The inspection on 17 December 2019 was the annual wash-up meeting where outstanding actions were reviewed and closed out.
- The inspection on 13 February 2020 focused on radioactive gaseous discharges. A number of recommendations for improvement were made in relation to the labelling of equipment and referencing within station documentation.

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

- 30 September- EDF Regulators meeting in Birmingham with the EA to discuss common issues across the EDF fleet.
- 6 November- Level 3 meeting with EDF internal regulator (INA) and EA in Barnwood to share priorities and any points of concern/interest.
- 8 November- Annual Review of Safety with ONR at the station.
- 26 November- Level 4 Environmental Impact Assessment Decommissioning Regulations (EIADR) in Barnwood with EA and ONR to discuss issues relating to that piece of work.
- 27 November- Level 3 EA/SEPA meeting in Barnwood to discuss common fleet environmental issues with EDF.
- 27 & 28 November- Level 4 Radioactive Waste meeting with EDF, ONR and EA to discuss operational waste issues.
- 12 December- Level 1 meeting at the station with SEPA's Chief Executive and EDF's Chief Nuclear Officer.
- 15 January- EDF Regulators teleconference with EA to share common issues across the EDF fleet.

##### 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.

##### 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.

## Events

On 23 January 2020 the station informed SEPA that it had found debris in a fuel flask received from Sellafield. SEPA believes that the debris constitutes radioactive waste as defined in EASR and that the station is not authorised to receive this type of waste. Although there appears to be no environmental impact from the receipt of this waste, it represents a contravention of the station's permit. SEPA and EDF continue to investigate the event.

There were no other 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.

## 2018 Compliance Assessment Scheme Scores Published

SEPA operates the Compliance Assessment Scheme (CAS) to demonstrate the level of compliance associated with specific licence conditions across the four principal regulatory regimes and publishes a summary of the results. The results for 2018 have been published and are available on SEPA's website. Hunterston B achieved a score of "excellent" on its RSA authorisation, PPC permit and 4 CAR licences.

## International Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) Mission

SEPA participated in the IRRS Mission in October 2019, which is organised by the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA). The purpose of the mission was to review the UK's regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety and had been formally requested by the UK Government in March 2018. The IRRS team performed a systematic review of all topics within the agreed scope of the mission through review of reference material and conducting interviews with staff from the UK authorities. It is understood that the final report will be made available in the next few weeks and will address the findings of the review.

## 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](http://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](http://www.sepa.org.uk) under "*Environment/Environmental data/SPRI*".

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