

## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

### SEPA Update- Hunterston A

December 2021 by teleconference

#### Cyber-Attack

On 24 December 2020, SEPA was subject to a serious and complex cyber-attack which has significantly impacted our contact centre, internal systems, processes and communications. The matter continues to be the subject of a live criminal investigation.

SEPA's approach continues to be to take the best professional advice from multi-agency partners, including Police Scotland and cyber security experts, with the multi-agency response focused on eradication, remediation and recovery. Online pollution and enquiry reporting as well as staff email has been restored, but some data products and reporting tools remain impacted and offline.

Independent audits were commissioned from Police Scotland (Cyber-Attack Response Debrief); Scottish Business Resilience Centre (Cyber-Attack Preparedness Review) and Azets (Cyber-Attack: Response; Cyber-Attack: Lessons Learned) to (a) ensure that SEPA further enhances its cyber security as the organisation builds new systems and practices; and (b) to allow others to learn from SEPA's experience to help better protect themselves from cybercrime. SEPA has also published its organisational response.

We are publishing as much as we can of the reviews so that as many organisations as possible can use our experience to better protect themselves from this growing scourge of cybercrime. Information has only been redacted that meets the following legal and governance criteria:

- Evidence related to ongoing criminal investigations
- Personal information or information that could identify an individual
- Information that could cause substantive prejudice to SEPA's ability to deliver on our statutory purpose including that relating to SEPA's current or future cyber security arrangements.

Documents are available to access at [sepa.org.uk/cyberattack](https://sepa.org.uk/cyberattack)

Further information can be obtained from the SEPA website [www.sepa.org.uk](https://www.sepa.org.uk).

## **Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR)- radioactive substances**

In addition to the cyber-attack, SEPA has also had to manage the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions. Our advice during the pandemic had presumed against site inspections, unless there was a significant event involving our remit. Telephone communication with the site continued throughout the period, including formal weekly staying in touch telephone calls. Routine teleconferences with Hunterston A and the corporate Magnox Ltd team on strategic issues have also continued as before.

Since May, due to the changing advice with regards to COVID-19 site visits are now being planned in order to ensure compliance with the site permit. Since the last Hunterston SSG in September, one site visit was undertaken at Hunterston A:

Site Visit 4th October 2021

A site visit was undertaken on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and involved an inspection of SAWBR waste package records, encompassing viewing fingerprint, sampling records and methodologies.

In addition an inspection of the corrections being made to the LLW solid waste records was carried out in order to ensure that the site is compliant with the conditions of EASR following the site making SEPA aware of over reporting of solid LLW activity levels in disposals from 2019 and 2020.

Following the visit in October there were a number of areas where additional questions arose and subsequently a future inspection is planned for December 2021. There will also be a further inspection of additional solid waste package records, encompassing viewing fingerprint and sampling records and methodologies for the sludges which have been collected from the sludge retention tanks.

### **Events**

SEPA provided an update in September with regards to an error that was identified within one of the radionuclide fingerprints recorded on a spreadsheet used to calculate the radioactivity content of solid waste. This has resulted in the radioactivity content of the waste disposed of being over reported. Assessment by the site concluded that the total radioactivity of solid waste disposed during calendar years 2019 and 2020 has been over reported by less than 0.2%. Further inspections and meetings have confirmed

SEPA provided an update at an earlier SSG that they had been made aware of two fuel finds having been logged during the removal of bunker waste at Hunterston A. There have been no further finds to date. The process of considering options for any fuel recovered from the bunker remains an ongoing process by Magnox, who are continuing to engage with key stakeholders.

There were no other reportable incidents, complaints or non-compliance events affecting SEPA's interests at Hunterston A 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 26) covering 2020 has been published and electronic copies can be obtained from SEPA's website 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, around the same as in 2019, and is about 0.5% of the annual dose limit (1 millisievert).

### **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 and B, were published and are available on SEPA's website under "*Environment/Environmental data/SPRI*", however this system is currently offline. SEPA is currently collecting the 2020 data.

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Radioactive Substances Specialist

10<sup>th</sup> November 2021