

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update- Hunterston B

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

Further information can be obtained from the SEPA website www.sepa.org.uk.

Regulation

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 has presumed against site inspections, unless there has been a significant event involving our remit. Telephone communication with the station

has continued throughout the period, including formal weekly call-downs. Routine teleconferences with corporate EDF on strategic issues, including defueling and decommissioning, have also continued as before.

There have been two site inspections since the last SSG meeting:

- 14 September- looked at the station's monthly and quarterly data returns which have not been able to be submitted since the cyber-attack as well as progress on the active effluent line manhole refurbishment programme. No contraventions were found.
- 17 November- looked at the station's work in preparation for defueling and deconstruction as well as the status of the external drains work following the oil purifier leak in 2020. No contraventions were found.

The station applied in July 2020 to regularise the receipt of radioactive waste in the form of debris in the incoming fuel transport flasks. Work continues to progress on determining the application.

Pollution Prevention and 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 and Hazards (COMAH)

There have been no issues related to COMAH since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)

There have been no other issues relating to the stations' non-radioactive liquid discharges to the water environment since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

There have been no issues relating to the ETS since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Environmental Events

The station has experienced two events, both involving asbestos:

- An asbestos gasket was mis-consigned to Cyclife along with radioactive metallic waste. Since Cyclife is authorised to manage asbestos, there was negligible impact from the event. The event remains under investigation.
- A skip of non-radioactive asbestos was mis-consigned as general waste and removed from the station. The contractor identified the error when the skip arrived at their facility, and it was returned to the station. The event remains under investigation.

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, have been published and are available on SEPA's website under "*Environment/Environmental data/SPRI*".

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25 November 2021