

## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

### Joint SEPA Update- Hunterston A and B

June 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. Whilst Police Scotland has indicated the likely involvement of international serious and organised crime, SEPA has been clear that it will not engage with criminals intent on disrupting public services and extorting public funds. The matter is subject to a live criminal investigation.

SEPA has been working closely with Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre and specialist cyber experts to determine the nature and scope of the attack. We learned that 1.2 GB of data (information) amounting to just over 4,000 files had been stolen from us.

On 21 January 2021, SEPA learned that the information stolen from us had been published online illegally. Some of the information that's been published was already publicly available, whilst some of that information was not. We are working quickly to assess the information that was published online. Our priority is to identify the information that is personal data and/or commercially sensitive.

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 has been restored, but staff schedules, some data products and reporting tools remain impacted and offline.

As part of a phased rollout, an increasing number of employees are now gaining access to SEPA email addresses. As email is restored, staff will have a significant volume of information and emails to manage against the backdrop of continued limitations due to the impacts of the cyber-attack and COVID-19. The restoration of SEPA emails will be phased and not all colleagues have access to our systems. We're working hard to clear our backlog of emails, but it will take us time. Please don't assume that any emails that you have sent to us since Christmas Eve (and in the period leading up to this) are currently being actioned.

Further information can be obtained from the SEPA website [www.sepa.org.uk](http://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 has presumed against site inspections, unless there has been a significant event involving our remit. Telephone communication with both sites has continued throughout the period, including formal weekly call-downs. Routine teleconferences with both Magnox Ltd and EDF Nuclear Generation Ltd on strategic issues have also continued as before.

At the time of writing, limited physical inspections have been arranged at both sites:

### Hunterston A Site Visit 18 May 2021

A short site visit was carried out to inspect accessible gaseous sampling systems which are relied upon for demonstration of compliance with the limits and conditions of EASR. All inspected systems were found to be operational as per the claims made within Issue 3 of the Temporary Regulatory Position Statement Contingency Plan submitted to SEPA in December 2020.

SEPA produced a temporary regulatory position statement on management of radioactive substances at nuclear sites during the pandemic and is available, along with full details of SEPA's response to the pandemic, from our website.

### Hunterston B Site Visit 26 May 2021

A short site visit has been arranged to inspect the active effluent discharge line and the associated manhole refurbishment programme. Should this inspection go ahead, more information will be provided at the meeting.

## **Events**

SEPA have been made aware that, during the removal of bunker waste at Hunterston A, two fuel finds have been logged. Magnox are currently in the process of considering options for any fuel recovered from the bunker, and engagement is ongoing.

There were no other reportable incidents, complaints or non-compliance events affecting SEPA's interests at either site 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 25) covering 2019 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, which is unchanged from 2018, 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*".

Mr Keith Hammond

Radioactive Substances Specialist

19 May 2021