

## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

### SEPA Update- Hunterston B

September 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.

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

At the time of writing, there has been no site inspections since 26 May 2021. A tentative inspection has been scheduled for 14 September 2021 to look at the station's Site Wide Environmental Safety Case and the monthly and quarterly data returns which have not been able to be submitted since the cyber-attack.

The station applied in July 2020 to regularise the receipt of radioactive waste in the form of debris in the incoming fuel transport flasks. Due to the cyber-attack, progress on this application was stopped; however, work has now resumed. It has been agreed with EDF that the determination date for this application is now 31 January 2022.

##### **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 was a leak of approximately 400l of hydraulic oil in the turbine hall in June and a leak of hypochlorite and towns water in the pumphouse in July. Neither leak was radioactive or escaped containment. 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**

Other than the non-radioactive hydraulic oil and hypochlorite leaks mentioned above, 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*".

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23 August 2021