

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update- Hunterston A

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. 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, most employees now have access to SEPA email addresses.

Further information can be obtained from the SEPA website 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.

Due to the changing advice with regards to COVID-19 a number of site visits are now being planned in order to ensure compliance with the site permit:

Site Visit 25 August 2021

A number of areas where there has been ongoing dialogue with the site are to be discussed at the site visit including:

- Water ingress into potentially contaminated areas;
- Demonstration of Best practicable Means (BPM) with regards to a number of projects;
- SAWBR fuel finds and future plans.

Site Visit October 2021

A future visit in October is currently being planned with areas of inspection to be confirmed.

Previously carried out and included in the joint HNA and HNB report for June 2021 was a Hunterston A Site Visit carried out on 18th May 2021 to inspect accessible gaseous sampling systems which are relied upon for demonstration of compliance with the limits and conditions of EASR. As previously stated 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.

Events

An error 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%.

SEPA provided an update at the last 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 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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20 August 2021