

Scottish Government Update to Hunterston Stakeholder Group – 2nd September 2021

Scottish Government Radioactive Waste and Nuclear Decommissioning Policy Team

A further update on changes within the Scottish Government.

Following on from the Scottish Parliamentary election in May this year there is a new Ministerial Team.

- Michael Matheson MSP is the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
- Mairi McAllan MSP is the Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform.

Our new team leader, Dan Couldridge, took up his position on the 26th of May.

BEIS led Policy Review (Command Paper 2919)

BEIS have continued work with the devolved administrations and stakeholders on the development of the policy review on managing radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning. The Scottish Government has provided comments and input to the development of the documents and process. The timing of the publication of the consultation was moved back to account for elections in Scotland and Wales and is now likely to be some time after the parliamentary summer recesses.

The Scottish Government will continue to feed into this work and provide further updates to the Hunterston group as this develops.

Designation Directions for Decommissioning Hunterston B and Torness nuclear sites

We have recently been engaging with BEIS and NDA in relation to Designation Directions, made jointly by UK and Scottish Ministers under the Energy Act 2004, regarding future decommissioning work at the Hunterston B and Torness nuclear sites. The Directions provide the basis for the NDA to undertake preparatory work before taking ownership of the Hunterston B and Torness sites, for decommissioning including giving the NDA with the necessary powers to be able to advise the UK and Scottish Governments regarding the future decommissioning of those sites.

Scottish Ministers agreed the Directions and these were laid at both the UK and Scottish Parliaments on 23 June.

Scottish Higher Activity Waste (HAW) Policy Review

We are currently taking stock of the initial work undertaken by the team on the early stages of the HAW policy review and will look to move this forward in due course.

We will provide further updates to the Hunterston group in due course.

ONR – 7th Joint Convention report

Engagement also continues on the work being led by ONR on the 7th Joint Convention report (to the International Atomic Energy Authority on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management) with the policy team ensuring that Scottish policies and priorities are captured as required. The next meeting has been moved to June 2022, due to Covid-19. We will provide a further update to the group after this meeting.

Scottish Government

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