

## Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

### SEPA Update- Chapelcross

16<sup>th</sup> November 2022

#### **Cyber-Attack**

On 24 December 2020, we were subject to a serious and complex cyber-attack, displaying significant stealth and malicious sophistication, which significantly impacted our organisation, our staff, our public and private partners, and the communities who rely on our services.

Since the attack, we have worked with Scottish Government, Police Scotland, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC), to a clear recovery strategy.

We've published [Our response and recovery from a major cyber-attack](#), and a range of voluntary independent audit reports on our response and recovery from Police Scotland, the Scottish Business Resilience Centre and Azets. You can view these reports at [sepa.org.uk/cyber-attack](https://sepa.org.uk/cyber-attack).

We will continue to publish the weekly service status until all our services have resumed, continuing to support our organisation, our staff, our public and private partners, and the communities who rely on our services, as we continue our recovery.

#### **Regulation**

##### **Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR)- Radioactive Substances**

In addition to the cyber-attack, SEPA has also had to continue to manage the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions.

Telephone communication with the site has continued including formal monthly staying in touch telephone calls. Routine teleconferences with Chapelcross and the corporate Magnox Ltd team on strategic issues have also continued as before.

SEPA undertook a regulatory inspection, in person, at the Chapelcross site on July 27 2002. The inspection focussed on the arrangements being developed on site to ensure that Best Practicable Means (BPM) is ensured during the removal, size reduction and packaging of radioactive waste during the initial stages of the decommissioning of the Chapelcross

Processing Plant (CXPP). On the basis of the inspection SEPA are confident that the site has developed arrangements that minimise, as far as is practicable, the release of gaseous tritium during the decommissioning operations. The decommissioning of the CXPP is an area of regulatory interest and SEPA will continue to undertake inspections at the CXPP as necessary.

### **Non-Rad Regulation**

There have been no issues relating to non-rad regulation since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

### **Environmental Events**

SEPA issued the Chapelcross site with a formal warning letter on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022. The warning letter was issued following an investigation by SEPA into a reported exceedance of a site sub-limit for the discharge of gaseous 'all other radionuclides excluding tritium' associated with the Advanced Vacuum Drying Facility (AVDS).

The Chapelcross site contacted SEPA on June 20<sup>th</sup> to report that, during the production of their statutory discharge returns for May 2022, they had determined that there had been an exceedance of the sub-limit for the discharge of the gaseous 'all other radionuclides excluding tritium' associated with the operation of the Advanced Vacuum Drying Facility (AVDS) given in their EASR (2018) permit.

The sub-limit (62 MBq) associated with the AVDS is a fraction of the total site limit for 'all other radionuclides excluding tritium' (2.5 GBq or 2500 MBq) and is intended to ensure that Best Practicable Means (BPM) is maintained during the operation of the AVDS. SEPA consider the risk to the public or the environment to be extremely low as a result of the exceedance.

### **Radioactivity in the Food and Environment**

RIFE 27 has now been published. This is available at <https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/radioactive-substances/environmental-monitoring-and-assessment/reports/>

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8<sup>th</sup> November 2022