

Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update- Hunterston A

3 March 2022 by teleconference

Chief Executive's Resignation

Following conduct allegations, SEPA's CEO, Terry A'Hearn, has stepped down and left his position. SEPA has a clear Code of Conduct and takes conduct allegations very seriously indeed. In order to protect anonymity, SEPA is unable to comment further. Recruitment for a new Chief Executive will shortly commence and in the interim, Jo Green will continue as Acting Chief Executive, supported by SEPA's Agency Management Team.

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.

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 continued throughout the period since the last SSG in December, including formal monthly staying in touch telephone calls. Routine teleconferences with Hunterston A and the corporate Magnox Ltd team on strategic issues have also continued as before.

Site visits continue to be planned in order to ensure compliance with the site permit. Since the last Hunterston SSG in December, one site visit was undertaken at Hunterston A on 14th December 2021 following a visit in October by SEPA where there were some additional questions that arose.

The visit in December involved an additional inspection of solid ILW waste package records, encompassing viewing fingerprint and sampling records and methodologies. In addition, this information was viewed for the sludges which have been collected from the sludge retention tanks. SEPA had also requested Magnox provide a brief presentation on the totality of the package records being retained by the site. There are still areas to look at with regards to the retention of package records and a further inspection will be planned in the near future.

At the time of writing, there is another inspection planned for 1st March 2022 to look at the maintenance schedules of any safety/ environment equipment and how the site ensures that the equipment is fit for use when they have not been used for a prolonged period due to the nature and frequency of potential discharges from the site. This is a joint inspection with ONR. In addition, SEPA will be having a meeting during the day to discuss BPM documentation relating to a number of projects.

Magnox provided SEPA with a programme for the coming year for the HNA site with regards to potential variations to the site permit and associated environmental documentation.

SEPA has requested that Magnox provide a list of extant/ current BPM documentation for the HNA site.

Non-Rad Regulation

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

Environmental Events

There have been no environmental events reported to SEPA by the site during the period.

There were no other reportable incidents, complaints or non-compliance events affecting SEPA's interests at Hunterston A known to have occurred since the last meeting of the SSG at the time of writing this report.

Magnox have provided all requested information to SEPA with regards to the error that was identified within one of the radionuclide fingerprints recorded on a spreadsheet used to calculate the radioactivity content of low level solid waste (see information provided at September/ December SSG meetings).

Radioactivity in Food & the Environment (RIFE)

RIFE is a collaborative report on work carried out by SEPA, the other UK environment agencies, Food Standards Scotland and Food Standards Agency on the radiological monitoring of food and the environment. The RIFE 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, including in the vicinity of Hunterston B. The RIFE report incorporates the results from the analysis of a wide range of samples and key information on local habits to demonstrate both that food remains safe and that the public's exposure to ionising radiation is within legal limits.

The latest edition (RIFE 26) covering 2020 has been published and can be obtained from SEPA's website along with previous year's reports. RIFE 26 reports that the total dose for the representative person (most exposed) around the Hunterston site, which includes both Hunterston A and Hunterston B, for 2020 was 0.005 millisieverts, which is well below the legal annual dose limit of 1 millisievert as set out in paragraph 26, Schedule 8 of EASR19.

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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