

## Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

### SEPA Update- Chapelcross

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

#### **Cyber-Attack**

On Christmas Eve, SEPA was subject to a serious and complex cyber-attack which has significantly impacted our contact centre, internal systems, processes and communications.

While some systems and services may be badly affected for some time, step-by-step we're working to assess and consider how we recover.

We've published: ·

[Cyber-attack | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#)·

[Service Status | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#)

SEPA are updating its service status on a weekly basis.

#### **Chief Executive**

SEPA has announced the appointment of a new Chief Executive. Nicole Paterson takes over the role in October of this year.

[Scottish Environment Protection Agency announces Nicole Paterson as next Chief Executive | Media | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#)

#### **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 has not undertaken a regulatory inspection, in person, at the Chapelcross site since the last stakeholder meeting in May 2022. At the time of writing SEPA is planning to undertake

an inspection on site on the 27<sup>th</sup> July. This will be to look at the planning for the decommissioning of components of the Chapelcross Processing Plant. SEPA attended the site in July to investigate- a reported event. The details of this are discussed below.

### **Non-Rad Regulation**

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

### **Environmental Events**

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 AVDS is used by the Chapelcross site to condition packaged waste from the site's pond facility prior to its on-site storage in accordance with Scottish Government Policy on High Activity Waste. All operation of the AVDS is currently halted.

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 are confident that there is no risk of harm to the public or the environment as a result of this exceedance. SEPA will undertake a precautionary dose assessment to confirm this is the case.

It is, however, a breach of the site's EASR (20128) permit conditions and SEPA is investigating this event to establish how it occurred. At the time of writing SEPA has attended the site and is planning a second site visit as part of the investigation. The site is also undertaking an investigation which will be shared with SEPA.

The outcome of SEPA's investigation will be shared with the Site Stakeholder Group at the next meeting.

Dr David Stone  
Radioactive Substances Specialist  
3 August 2022