

## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

### SEPA Update- Hunterston B

1 June 2022

#### **Chief Executive's Post**

Recruitment for a new Chief Executive has commenced, and depending on the availability of the chosen candidate, is expected to be filled in the next six months. 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](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**

Telephone communication with the station has continued throughout the period, including formal weekly call-downs with the Environmental Safety Group as well as monthly updates from the EDF internal regulator on site. Routine meetings with corporate EDF, ONR and EA on strategic issues, including defueling and decommissioning, have also taken place.

The site has been visited twice since the last SSG meeting. SEPA staff attended the Annual Review of Safety on 17 March 2022 and afterwards received updates on the investigation into the radioactive oil loss event. On 26 April 2022, SEPA staff carried out an inspection to follow up on progress with both the radioactive and non-radioactive oil loss events as well as the recommendations from the inspection on 22 February 2022. No new contraventions were identified, and it was noted that the recommendations from February had been acted upon.

The station applied in July 2020 to regularise the receipt of radioactive waste in the form of debris in the incoming fuel transport flasks. Work continues to progress on determining the application.

### **Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC)**

SEPA staff have been investigating and assessing the leak from an oil-filled cable onsite- see below. Otherwise, there have been no issues relating to the station's PPC permit for its non-radioactive emissions from the emergency diesel generators, auxiliary boilers and waste oil burner since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

### **Control of Major Accidents and Hazards (COMAH)**

There have been no issues related to COMAH since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

### **Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)**

There have been no other issues relating to the stations' non-radioactive liquid discharges to the water environment since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

### **UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)**

There have been no issues relating to the ETS since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

## **Environmental Events**

SEPA is currently investigating two environmental events on site, both of which involve the loss of control of oil:

1. In February, the station lost control of approximately 1300 litres of radioactively contaminated oil from a gas circulator settling tank. The oil is lightly contaminated with tritium. The oil appears to have been captured at the lagoons at the 39-inch outfall and did not enter the environment. The recovered waste oil/water mixture has been allowed to separate, with the water fraction being disposed of through the AETP and the oil being transferred to an authorised incinerator. The event remains under investigation.
2. EDF have made SEPA aware of a small, ongoing non-radioactive oil leak from an oil-filled transformer cable. The leak constitutes about 50 litres per quarter of fully biodegradable oil which has a half-life of around 15 days in soil. There is no reason at present to assume a significant environmental impact. SEPA is in discussions with EDF regarding locating the oil leak, establishing monitoring to assess its extent and putting plans in place to implement a fix. This will need to be carefully considered and planned due to the need to take the transformer offline, which has nuclear safety implications, to instigate the fix.

### **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*".

Mr Keith Hammond

Radioactive Substances Specialist

20 May 2022