

## Hunterston Site Stakeholder Group

### SEPA Update- Hunterston B

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](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. Routine teleconferences with corporate EDF on strategic issues, including defueling and decommissioning, have also continued as before.

The site has been inspected once since the last SSG meeting. On 14 and 15 December 2021, SEPA staff along with staff from the EA and ONR attended the site to discuss the executable decommissioning plan for the station.

At the time of writing, there is another inspection planned for 22 February 2022 to look at the progress of the active effluent discharge line manhole refurbishment programme and inspect against radioactive waste transfers off-site. A verbal update of this inspection will be given at the meeting.

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)**

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**

The station experienced the loss of control of approximately 1500 litres of lightly radioactively contaminated waste oil from a gas circulator settling tank. The event came to light on 18 February 2022. The oil appears to have been captured at the 39-inch outfall and did not enter the environment. The event remains under investigation.

SEPA has concluded its investigation into the mis-consignment of one radioactive asbestos gasket in October 2021 to Cyclife. In light of the actions taken by the station and the fact that Cyclife is authorised to receive radioactive asbestos, SEPA has issued an advisory letter in response to the event.

### **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

21 February 2022