

Scottish Government Updates December 2010

Higher Activity Radioactive Waste

- The Scottish Government has consulted on a Detailed Statement of Policy for its Higher Activity Radioactive Waste.
- Draft Detailed Statement of Policy and its Environmental Assessment were published in January 2010.
- Following comments, an additional Environmental Assessment was published for consultation in September 2010 assessing deep geological disposal as a “reasonable alternative”
- Extensive engagement with stakeholders around Scotland throughout the process has included providing feedback on how the Scottish Government planned to address the responses to the consultation.
- Dounreay SSG has been involved throughout the process and has provided positive, constructive comments.
- The Scottish Government still plans to publish the final Policy by the end of 2010.

Low Level Radioactive Waste

- Scottish Government has worked with DECC, other Devolved Administrations and relevant Stakeholders to draft a consultation for a strategy for the Management of Solid Low Level Radioactive Waste from the Non-Nuclear Industry in the United Kingdom (excluding Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM)).
- Consultation on draft strategy was launched on 7 December 2010 and will be available on both Scottish Government and DECC websites. The consultation period will finish on 8 March 2011.
- Document is aimed primarily at non-nuclear industry radioactive waste managers; environmental regulators; waste planning bodies. It will also be relevant to operators of all waste disposal facilities.
- NORM is being dealt with as a separate consultation exercise due to this being a specific waste item.
- These two consultations will be used to formulate a strategy for the Management of Solid Low Level Waste from the Non-Nuclear Industry in the United Kingdom.

Dounreay Radioactive Waste Substitution Consultation

- The Scottish and UK Governments launched a joint consultation on 3 December 2010 on a proposed policy about Radioactive Waste Substitution at Dounreay. The consultation is available on the Scottish Government's website at www.scotland.gov.uk/Dounreay-waste and will finish on 11 March 2011.
- The consultation covers radioactive wastes allocated to overseas customers following the reprocessing of their research reactor fuels at Dounreay. These contracts under which these wastes are to be returned are historic, dating mainly from the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's.
- The draft policy on radioactive waste substitution will:
 - enable the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to agree on wastes to be returned to overseas customers;
 - provide Dounreay with the clarity that it needs to move forward with decommissioning the site;
- The two types of radioactive waste substitution being proposed in the draft policy are:
 - Prototype Fast Reactor and cemented Materials Test Reactor waste may be substituted with vitrified (in glass) waste from Sellafield;
 - Prototype Fast Reactor waste may be substituted with cemented Materials Test Reactor waste at Dounreay.
- The main benefits of the draft policy on radioactive waste substitution are:
 - the ability to return wastes earlier;
 - clarity for Dounreay's future radioactive waste management needs;
 - simplification of transport of radioactive wastes overseas;
 - completion of historic contracts;
 - avoiding the need to construct another vitrification plant and manage the waste associated with its operation and decommissioning.
- The draft policy on radioactive waste substitution may lead to some radioactive waste remaining at Dounreay:
 - at most this will increase the amount of intermediate level waste remaining at the site by 3%;
 - this can easily be accommodated within existing or planned facilities;
 - any waste remaining will be managed in accordance with the Scottish Government's policy on Higher Activity Radioactive Waste.
- We would welcome the views of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and any other interested party on the proposed policy.