

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

SEPA Report to the Dounreay Stakeholders' Group January 2011

Pollution Prevention & Control (PPC)

Nothing to report for this period.

Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Authorisations

SEPA continue to undertake work to analyse the data from the Wet Silo leak detection monitoring systems and discuss the results with the site. The Wet Silo is used to store solid Intermediate Level Waste under water.

As part of routine inspection work, SEPA undertook an inspection of DSRL's on-site arrangements for the management of Low Level Waste (LLW). The inspection focussed on conditions of acceptance; waste streams; paperwork and database reviews. During the inspection no issues were identified regarding the consignment process or the availability of records for the stored LLW.

SEPA also inspected the rationalisation process undertaken for a sample of Environmental Support Files (ESF's) and the progress of the ESF action implementation programme. SEPA agrees with DSRL that the rationalisation process will make future changes and maintenance of the ESF more manageable. SEPA noted that the ESF action implementation programme was, in general, running to schedule.

Proposed new Low Level Radioactive Waste Facility

The SEPA website page covering the Dounreay proposed Low Level Waste Facilities has been updated to reflect the receipt of the updated Environmental Safety Case 2010 (ESC 10) from DSRL along with their updated application for Authorisation under the Radioactive Substances Act (RSA93). The update also includes advance notification of the proposed Public Participation Directive style consultation on the SEPA decision document expected in October 2011, along with a link which can be used to access the ESC 10 directly from the DSRL website.

A meeting was held on 11 November in Edinburgh with representatives of the Environment Agency (EA) and SEPA as part of a series to ensure awareness and consistency regarding what each Agency was doing, particularly in connection with authorisation processes for disposal of low level radioactive waste at Dounreay and the facility near Drigg.

A two day Technical Meeting was held with DSRL and Galson Science on 22/23 November in Thurso. During the meeting SEPA, as scheduled, provided feedback to DSRL on the Optimisation 2010 paper received from DSRL. The paper was generally a well constructed narrative which still has a fair amount of future work included, much of which will be addressed during the detailed design process. Optimisation is an ongoing process and it was encouraging to see that DSRL intend to revisit some of the areas such as alternative packaging in light of further work.

SEPA staff held a liaison meeting with the Buldoo Residents in the evening of the 22nd of November.

SEPA further provided comments to DSRL on their revised contaminated land report which forms part of a planning condition imposed by The Highland Council. A follow up meeting on this is expected early in 2011.

Details of the project can be found at:

http://www.sepa.org.uk/radioactive_substances/decommissioning/dounreay/proposed_llw_facilities.aspx

Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)

Nothing to report for this period.

Waste Management Licensing

SEPA continues to work with DSRL in developing a site wide authorization with both parties currently looking at options and potential constraints.

SEPA received DSRL's submissions relating to capping and closure of Landfill 42 on December 24th. SEPA will be reviewing these submissions through January with the aim of feeding back to DSRL in late February.

Particles and Beach Monitoring

Nothing to report for this period.

Dounreay Parent Body Organisation Competition

SEPA made a presentation to both participants and then had individual sessions with them along with the other regulators as part of the formal information discovery process in mid November. SEPA will continue to remain engaged as part of the competition process.

Planning

Nothing to report for this period.

SEPA's change proposals for Better Environmental Regulation

SEPA is currently consulting on this. The consultation sets out some significant changes that SEPA is proposing in order to improve, simplify and better integrate the environmental protection and improvement services it provides for Scotland.

SEPA needs views on what is proposed, including on the potential for legislative reform that could deliver the streamlined, simpler, more integrated regulatory system we believe Scotland needs to support economic recovery.

A link to the consultation can be found at

http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/consultations.aspx The closing date is the 14th of February