

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RADIOACTIVE WASTE TEAM  
BRIEFING TO DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP – 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2011**

**Higher Activity Waste Policy**

The Scottish Government published its Policy for higher activity radioactive waste on 20 January 2011. In addition to the Policy document, the Scottish Government also published separately: a document summarising its analysis of the responses to the Consultation and the Scottish Government response to them; and a Post-Adoption Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement. Copies of the documents can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/waste-and-pollution/Waste-1/16293/higheractivitywastepolicy>

The Scottish Government Policy is that the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste should be in near-surface facilities. Facilities should be located as near to the site where the waste is produced as possible. Developers will need to demonstrate how the facilities will be monitored and how waste packages, or waste, could be retrieved. All long-term waste management options will be subject to robust regulatory requirements.

There will be a Strategy to implement the Policy which will be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The Scottish Government will lead the process to develop the Implementation Strategy and its SEA.

For more information please contact Claire Dodd, Email:  
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**Dounreay Radioactive Waste Substitution Consultation**

This consultation describes proposals by the Scottish and UK Governments to allow Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd (DSRL), acting on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), to carry out substitution of wastes arising from the historic reprocessing of overseas spent fuels at Dounreay. The consultation closes on 11 March 2011. Responses to the consultation will be considered and a further announcement in respect of waste substitution is expected to be made later in 2011.

For more information please contact Martin Macdonald, Email:  
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**Exemption Order Review**

This review is part of the UK-wide revision of the framework for regulating very low risk radioactive material and waste. It has been ongoing since 2006 and has included extensive engagement with stakeholders. A formal public consultation on the proposals was carried out in 2009.

The review was carried out to:

- Respond to stakeholder concerns that the regime was outdated and difficult to follow, and
- Reduce the regulatory burden,
- Demonstrate clearer compliance with the Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive.

In Scotland the output of the review will be two new Statutory Instruments:

- **The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2011** These regulations were agreed by the Scottish Parliament's Rural Affairs and Environment Committee on 2 March 2011. (The Regulations)
- **The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Exemption (Scotland) Order 2011**
  - This Exemption Order is due to be considered by the Scottish Parliament's Rural Affairs and Environment Committee on 15 March 2011. (The Exemption Order)

In both cases the changes relate to very low risk activities and do not affect the regulatory regime e.g. the issuing of registrations and granting of authorisations by SEPA.

For more information please contact Helen Gordon-Smith, Email: [Helen.Gordon-Smith@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Gordon-Smith@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

**Strategy for Non Nuclear Industry Low Level Waste - Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM)**

The Scottish Government Radioactive Waste Team is leading on the development of a strategy for NORM wastes such as those arising during the extraction of oil and gas. It is expected that a draft strategy will be developed during 2011 following which there will be a consultation.

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9<sup>th</sup> March 2011