

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

SEPA Report to the Dounreay Stakeholders' Group July 2011

Pollution Prevention & Control (PPC)

Nothing to report for this period.

Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Authorisations

Application for Decommissioning Authorisation:

SEPA is currently producing the consultation document for the discretionary consultees and the public. Following the discretionary consultees and public consultation stage, SEPA will undertake the determination process.

Proposed new Low Level Radioactive Waste Facility

The finalised submission to the European Commission under Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty by Dounreay Site Restoration Limited (DSRL) has been reviewed by SEPA as advisor to Scottish Government and sent onward to the European Commission through the Scottish and United Kingdom Governments. The Commission can take up to six months to give their Opinion and this is now likely by the end of 2011, a favourable opinion is required before SEPA carry out the proposed public consultation on any potential draft Authorisation.

SEPA is currently preparing tender documents to obtain independent technical expertise to assist in the review the DSRL final detailed design plans and how these relate to the contents of the Environmental Safety Case (ESC), as well as reviewing the construction quality assurance proposals.

Detailed reviews of all the key documents are currently being undertaken SEPA as part of the process required for determination of application to dispose of waste under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (RSA93). This will inform any authorisation that SEPA may grant. SEPA has started working with DSRL and their contractor Grahams on their CAR and PPC applications, and these will follow their respective determination procedures.

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)

The Radioactive Substances Authorisation became the CAR Authorisation for liquid radioactive discharges. The Authorisation has been reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the CAR regulations and a variation to add CAR compliant conditions and limits is in progress. The final stage consultation for the variation is currently being undertaken.

Waste Management Licensing

Landfill 42 – SEPA has received an application to amend the permit to allow the completion of site restoration and is in the process of determining this.

Particles and Beach Monitoring

SEPA has been informed by DSRL of the completion of the latest phase of the off-shore fuel fragment recovery work. The latest phase of the off-shore fuel fragment recovery work recovered 351 fragments from the seabed off Dounreay between May and July 2011. The area of seabed covered was 23.5 hectares.

Dounreay Parent Body Organisation Competition

SEPA continues to liaise with other regulators, DSRL & the NDA Competition Team on the processes that will be necessary between now & final share transfer.

Planning

SEPA responded on 11 May 2011 to a Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) consultation from Marine Scotland on an application (FKB/D415) from Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd for Micro-dredging of sediment at Dounreay. The proposal, insofar as the FEPA application was concerned, was for the continued disposal of small volumes of radiologically 'clean' material by controlled placement within the dredge area. SEPA advised that it considered the proposed approach, as detailed in the application, to be in accordance with the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO). SEPA further advised that it considered there will be little to no risk of ecological impact resulting from these activities provided that work is carried out according to best environmental practices