

## **Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)**

### **SEPA Report to the Dounreay Stakeholders' Group January 2012**

#### **Pollution Prevention & Control (PPC)**

Please see the section on the proposed new Low Level Waste Facilities

#### **Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Authorisations**

Nil to report

#### **Proposed new Low Level Radioactive Waste Facility**

SEPA are in the final stages of determining the application and has developed a new authorisation template for the disposal of the Low Level Radioactive Waste at the new facilities with a suite of Schedules of Conditions and Limitations. This has been developed to ensure that the facility will be designed, operated and closed in a manner which will comply with the performance parameters specified in the application and supporting documents. This draft Authorisation, along with a decision document supporting SEPA's decision, will form part of a four week public consultation period currently expected to be undertaken during March 2012..

The External Advisory Group met on 8 November and reviewed the draft authorisation.

The applications for a CAR licence (for dewatering of the facility) and for a PPC permit (for emplacement of the excavated material) are in the process of being determined. The PPC application has been subject to public consultation and following SEPA's determination of the PPC application further public consultation will be undertaken.

SEPA are to engage external engineering specialists to review the final detailed design of the facilities, and to review the Construction Quality Assurance arrangements proposed by the contractor to ensure the concrete is to the required standard.

Details of the project can be found at:

[http://www.sepa.org.uk/radioactive\\_substances/decommissioning/dounreay/proposed llw facilities.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/radioactive_substances/decommissioning/dounreay/proposed_llw_facilities.aspx)

#### **Site Inspection Work**

Following the leak of radioactive liquor within the DFR NaK Disposal Plant, ion exchange plant (that was contained within a shielded skid area) that occurred on 7 October, SEPA and ONR undertook a joint inspection to follow-up the incident and review the actions taken by DSRL.

#### **Site Regulation**

Nil to report.

**Transfrontier Shipment**

Nil to report

**Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)**

Please see the section on the proposed Low Level Waste Facilities.

**Waste Management Licensing**

Landfill 42: DSRL continue to make good progress towards the capping and closure of the landfill. Lining works have began and were seen to be progressing well during an inspection by SEPA on 24<sup>th</sup> November. During a site visit on 27 Oct, SEPA became aware of the landfill being subject to significant water inundation resulting in water percolating through the waste mass. The cause was attributed to drainage works upstream of the landfill relating to the LLW Facilities project and to the installation of a new security fence round the nuclear licensed site. Following discussion with SEPA, DSRL are installing a large cut off trench which will intercept surface water prior to it reaching the LF and divert it to the LLW facilities Sustainable Drainage system. The installation of the cut off trench & progress with lining works was also subject to inspection by SEPA on 24 November and found to be satisfactory the time of inspection.

**Particles and Beach Monitoring**

Nil to report.

**Dounreay Parent Body Organisation Competition**

SEPA met with the Preferred Bidder & NDA in December 2011. This initial meeting will be followed up followed with further meetings which will be held jointly with other regulators.

**Planning**

SEPA has been recently consulted by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Ltd with respect to their Consultation Document for a possible 132 Kv subsea electricity connection between the west coast of mainland Orkney and Dounreay in Caithness. The new substation and possible future convertor station together with the subsea cable connection is required to transmit electricity from the growing number of marine and wind energy projects in Orkney to mainland Scotland. SEPA has provided site selection and environmental scoping advice for the proposed substation near Harray in Orkney and for assessing the environmental impacts of the various options for the subsea cable route. SEPA has received advice from the Particles Retrieval Advisory Group (PRAG(D)) and has provided advice to SHET Ltd on the basis of this advice.

The Highland Council-consulted SEPA on material submitted by DSRL in relation to discharge of "pre-commencement" conditions in relation to the Dounreay Low Level Waste Facility and requested advice on if the information submitted is sufficient for the Council to discharge these conditions. Following SEPA's response, the Council has discharged the planning conditions for the construction of phase 1 of the facility.