

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

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

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

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

##### **Site Inspection Work and Site Regulation**

During February SEPA undertook an on-site inspection of key aspects of DSRL's management system for achieving compliance with the limitations and conditions of the site's RSA 93 authorisations. The inspection concluded that the arrangements included appropriate involvement of environmental personnel within the key processes and several examples of good practice were noted.

On 21 February SEPA was informed of a fire in a glovebox within the Prototype Fast Reactor (PFR) facility at Dounreay. The operator identified the source of the fire as the ignition of liquid metal coolant residue within a dismantled section of pipe. The stack monitoring results indicate that there has been no increase in the discharge of activity (from PFR main stack) as a result of the incident.

SEPA has issued DSRL with the results of the Operator Performance Assessment.

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

In order to improve consultation and engagement with the most affected parties, the Buldoo residents, an advance copy of the draft Authorisation along with a copy of the non-technical summary of the accompanying decision document has been issued to them for their comment. A meeting is being arranged with them to discuss these while the full documents are undergoing peer review within SEPA. This will allow comments from the Buldoo Residents Group to be taken into account prior to the next stage of the SEPA regulatory review process. The full consultation is now likely to take place in June 2010 at which time the views of the Buldoo Residents will again be sought, along with those of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and others as appropriate.'

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)

Nil to report.

**Transfrontier Shipment**

Nil to report

**Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)**

Nil to report

**Waste Management Licensing**

Nil to report

**Particles and Beach Monitoring**

On 14 February, SEPA was informed of the detection and recovery of a particle which had a different composition compared to those detected previously at Sandside. The initial results indicate that the particle is dominated by the radionuclide Strontium-90. Previously detected and recovered particles had equal quantities of the radionuclides Caesium-137 and Strontium-90. The initial results indicate the particle has a Strontium-90 activity of around 1-2 Mega Becquerels, with a few kilo Becquerels of Caesium-137. SEPA requested that further monitoring be undertaken to confirm that this is an unusual find, and this was carried out by the operator. Analysis of the particle is still on-going, and destructive testing of the particle will be undertaken. The latest find does not alter SEPA's view that public access to the beach should continue, given the current level of monitoring carried out and the number of finds to date. SEPA will provide the information on this find to the Particles Retrieval Advisory Group (Dounreay ) for its consideration.

**Dounreay Parent Body Organisation Competition**

SEPA met with the Preferred Bidder at joint meetings with other regulators & NDA in January, February and March 2012. Since share handover, the innovations proposed will be subject to the regulatory process with DSRL which is the holder of the environmental authorisations, permits & licences.

**Planning**

SEPA staff attended in March the Highland Council's "Pre-Application Advice Service" meeting to discuss the Dounreay Phase 2 (2010 - 2020) project, including erection of Shaft/Silo Complex, Labs, Store Conversion, Sub-station and Pit Retrieval Plant and demolition of some existing infrastructure. SEPA anticipates consultation on the EIA scoping of the project in due course.