

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

SEPA DSRL Report to the Dounreay Stakeholders' Group November 2012

Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Authorisations

Site Inspection Work

SEPA has inspected DSRL's arrangements for compliance with the maintenance conditions in its authorisations and found them to be robust.

RSA Compliance

Following notification from DSRL of the identification of unauthorised disposals of radioactively contaminated effluent, involving very low levels of radioactivity from the environmental labs, SEPA has concluded its investigation. As a result SEPA sent a warning letter to the site on this matter and do not envisage taking any further enforcement action regarding this.

Following notification from DSRL that a consignment of solid waste had been removed from the site without it going through DSRL's due process for waste leaving site, SEPA has been investigating the circumstances. Following its own investigation, DSRL has identified a range of recommendations to address the identified shortcomings in the arrangements for the control of the disposal of waste from the site. SEPA intend to inspect the implementation of the recommendations in due course.

RSA Authorisations

In August, SEPA granted DSRL a variation to the gaseous waste authorisation. The variation reallocated a portion of the site's existing Krypton-85 limit from the Fuel Cycle Area stacks to the Prototype Fast Reactor stack, and resulting in an overall reduction of the site's authorised Krypton-85 discharge limit.

The discretionary and public consultation on DSRL's application for a decommissioning authorisation commenced in early October. The consultation includes details of SEPA's review of the beach monitoring programme for fragments of irradiated nuclear fuel (particles) and the proposed revised monitoring programme. The consultation is due to close on 30 November.

Proposed New Low Level Radioactive Waste Facility

Public consultation has now closed with responses received from a number stakeholders including the DSG and Buldoo Residents Group. Following consideration of the responses SEPA will be seeking to grant the authorisation before the end of 2012.

During September SEPA visited the construction site to undertake an inspection of the excavated materials storage and geosphere areas and Dr James Gemmill (Head of Radioactive Substances) met with senior members of DSRL LLWF team to discuss areas of common interest.

A further technical meeting is scheduled between SEPA and DSRL for the end of October.

Site End State

In October SEPA attended a workshop with DSRL, ONR, NDA and specialist contractors on site end state and the development of clean-up levels for the Dounreay site. There will be significant interaction between the site and the regulators as DSRL's plans for the restoration of the site develop.

RIFE

The latest Radioactivity in Food and the Environment Report (RIFE, 2011) has been published and shows that doses of radioactivity received by people in Scotland are still well within international dose limits.

http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/news/2012/radioactivity_in_food_and_the.aspx

Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)

Nil to report

Waste Management Licensing

Nil to report

Particles and Beach Monitoring

Nil to report

Planning

SEPA has been consulted on is the Strategic Environmental Assessment screening for the Dounreay Planning Framework 2012 Update in September. SEPA agreed with Highland Council's assessment that the Dounreay Planning Framework 2012 Update did not require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Vulcan

Roger Wilson has taken over as Site Inspector. He has attended site for the purposes of familiarisation & induction training an initial inspection of the site's arrangements for compliance with its Letter of Agreement and in particular the linkage from MOD to its contractor which was found to be robust.