

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

SEPA Report to the Dounreay Stakeholders' Group April 2013

Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Authorisations

Site Inspection Work

A compliance inspection has taken place against the conditions in DSRL's authorisations on Record Keeping. This was found to be broadly satisfactory.

RSA Compliance

SEPA undertook a site visit in June to be updated on progress with site decommissioning projects, in particular looking at the Reactors. It was found that DSRL had made good progress, while also recognising that much still remains to be done. SEPA also received an update on progress with replacing the WRACS supercompactor and on how DSRL will maintain provision of reassurance monitoring of non-radioactive solid waste prior to it leaving the site through decommissioning.

RSA Authorisations

DSRL applied to SEPA for a variation to Dounreay's gaseous waste authorisation. The variation application requests the addition of the discharge stack from the new active analysis laboratory to the list of discharge outlets within the authorisation. As the discharge from the new laboratory can be accommodated within existing discharge limits, there would be no changes to the discharge limits within the authorisation.

SEPA's determination of DSRL's application is ongoing, including consideration and assessment of DSRL's justification for its proposed discharge limits. SEPA has requested further information from DSRL in support its application which remains outstanding.

SEPA and the Environment Agency have jointly approved NDA's proposed methodology for the demonstration of the broad environmental neutrality as required in Government policy for the substitution of Sellafield vitrified product for MTR or PFR raffinate for return of waste to overseas customers.

SEPA is working closely with ONR, DSRL and their contractors on the Unirradiated Fuels Characterisation Facility. SEPA is also regularly engaging with ONR, the Environment Agency, DSRL, SL, NDA and INS on the implementation of the Dounreay Exotics strategy.

Article 37 Update

Dounreay has provided Scottish Government with the additional Article 37 update information, that had been requested by the European Commission. Scottish Government has requested confirmation from SEPA that it is content with the SEPA related content of the additional information. SEPA will be reviewing the additional information in early July.

New Low Level Radioactive Waste Facility

SEPA has received feedback from ONR's Specialist following a review, on behalf of SEPA, of the information provided by DSRL in respect of the early stage thermal cracking. The review found that best practice and relevant construction guidance had been followed and the actions taken by DSRL in deciding to continue with the construction of the vault were appropriate. The review also found the actions proposed by DSRL to mitigate the cracking by coating with a polymer-modified cementitious coatings to be appropriate and proportional.

SEPA will be participating in a technical meeting to discuss progress with development of management systems and operational procedures which require to be in place prior to the facility becoming operational on July 23rd & 24th.

Site End State

A workshop was held between SEPA, Highland Council and DSRL in April to discuss requirements in respect of the Groundwater Directive.

SEPA participated in a meeting with DSRL, ONR, Highland Council and the NDA to discuss DSRL's progress in the development of clean-up standards and progress in the end state project on July 8th and 9th.

Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)

Nil to report

Waste Management Licensing

Nil to report

Planning

Nothing to report

Vulcan

SEPA has had a briefing on Vulcan Defueling & Decommissioning (VDAD) and has had a further joint meeting with ONR and DNSR on the potential regulatory implications of VDAD.

Stewart Ballantine
Radioactive Substances Policy and Nuclear Regulation Unit