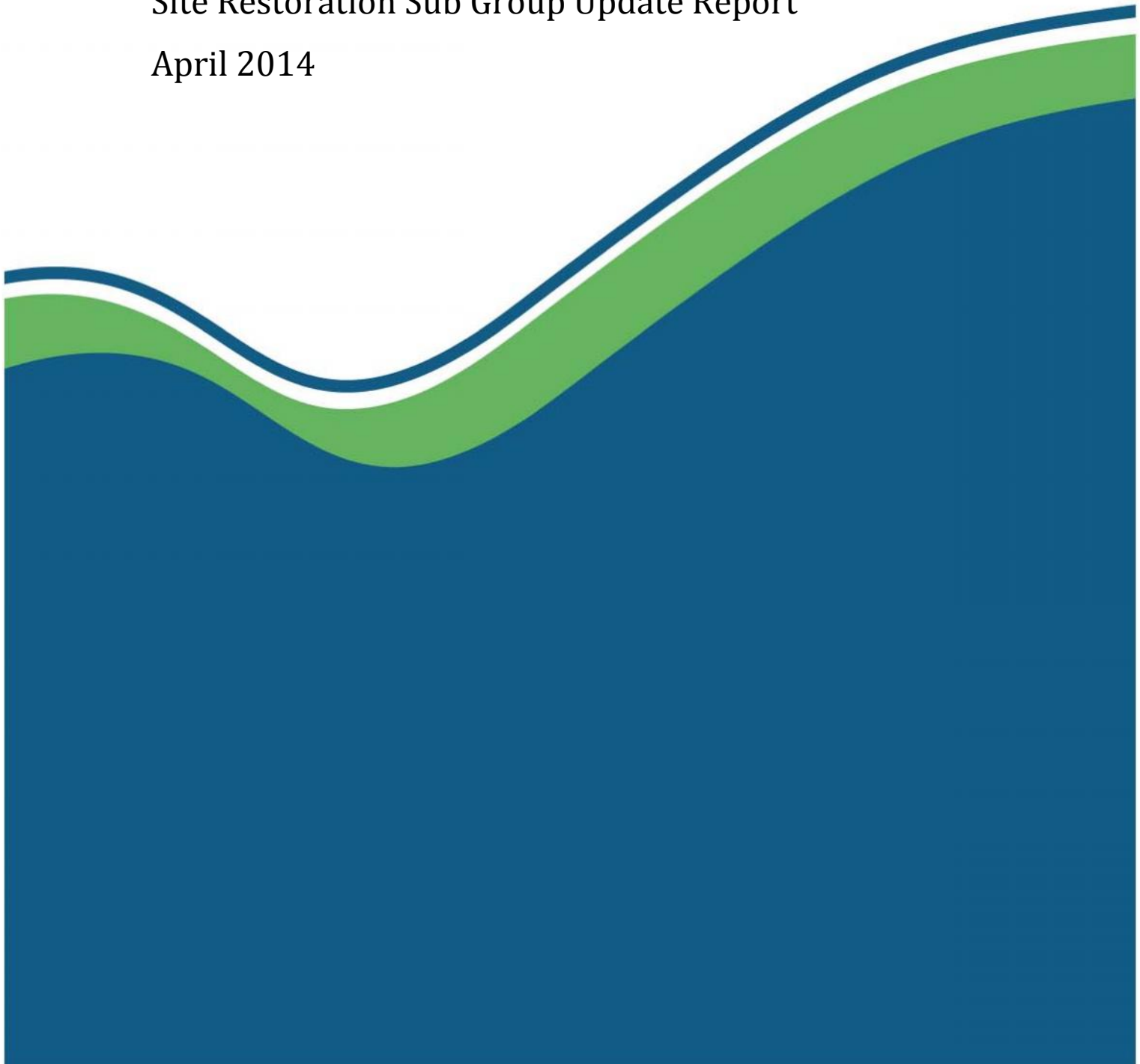




DSG(2014)P008

Dounreay Stakeholder Group
Site Restoration Sub Group Update Report
April 2014



Site Inspection Work & RSA Compliance

As highlighted in January report, SEPA became aware of an issue with compliance discharge reporting in respect of a minor Kr-85 limit associated with the Dounreay Fast Reactor (DFR) facility. SEPA attended the site as part of its investigation of this matter. SEPA is currently considering the appropriate level of enforcement action in relation to this matter.

On 27th February, SEPA was notified by DSRL of an issue relating to the compliance reporting in respect of the gaseous Iodine-129 discharges from the Fuel Cycle Area North stack. DSRL identified an error in its compliance reporting software, which had occurred when work on the software was undertaken in May 2013. The affected discharge remained at <4% of its authorised limit. SEPA has engaged with DSRL on this issue to ensure the accuracy of future reporting.

DSRL also notified SEPA of a flood event within the PFR Metal Alkali lab on 27th February. All the flood water is understood to have been contained and collected from within a clean area and that all the water is radiologically clean. SEPA do not intend taking any further action in regards this incident.

On 12th March DSRL notified SEPA about an incident involving a fire within the Equipment Maintenance and Decontamination Facility. The source of the fire was the ignition of waste within a metal box and the fire was extinguished by the site fire brigade. SEPA attended site as part of its investigation of this matter and based on the monitoring data provided by DSRL there is no indication of release of activity to the environment as a result of this incident. SEPA will be undertaking further site discussions with DSRL on this during a visit to site in April.

In March DSRL notified SEPA about a potential issue in relation to a fuel can within a pond in the PFR facility. DSRL advised that it believed that a fuel can had been damaged and as a result there is a potential for the release of activity into the pond water and a potential for gaseous discharges of Krypton-85 and tritium to have taken place from the facility's authorised discharge stack. Based on the operator's information on the maximum activity of these radionuclides present within the fuel can, the gaseous discharges of Krypton-85 and tritium which may have occurred as a result of the damage to the fuel can are likely to have remained well below the authorised limits. The radiological consequences of any discharges arising from this incident are considered to be very low. Following DSRL's notification of this issue, SEPA made arrangements with its environmental monitoring programme contractor to have the filter papers of the off-site air samplers changed and checked as a reassurance measure. The initial environmental monitoring results provided by the contractor indicate nothing of concern. SEPA attended site as part of its investigation of this matter, which is on-going.

SEPA and DSRL also held a number of decommissioning project update meetings during the visit to site in February.

RSA Authorisations

The draft decommissioning authorisation has completed its final statutory consultation and has been sent to Scottish Government for its final consideration.

Other Site Work

SEPA was provided an overview on potential programme implications of the reviewed funding model in January.

SEPA attended meetings of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) Spent Fuels and Nuclear Materials Strategic Theme Oversight Group and meeting of the Dounreay Exotics Regulatory Interchange Forum. SEPA met with DSRL to discuss issues related to the Unirradiated Fuel Characterisation Facility. DECC has opened a consultation on the Management of overseas origin nuclear fuels held in the UK. This consultation sets out proposals which would allow the NDA to manage by means of interim storage and disposal any small quantities of overseas origin oxide fuels and includes materials currently held at Dounreay.

Article 37 Update

SEPA has provided feedback to Scottish Government and DSRL on the updated Article 37 documentation, prepared to satisfy European Commission requirements.

Low Level Radioactive Waste Facility

As part of the RSA93 authorisation for the new facility there is a requirement for DSRL to provide to SEPA a number of submissions prior to the vaults becoming operational. A number of submissions relating to operational management plans are still required prior to the facility becoming operational.

Site End State

In February SEPA hydrogeological specialists presented DSRL with review findings in respect of DSRL's approach to closure of Zone 1B. SEPA made a number of recommendations for DSRL's consideration.

Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR)

Nothing to report

Planning

DSRL, The Highland Council, HSE and SEPA have held an initial pre-planning application discussion on the scope of Environmental Impact Assessment in relation to the Dounreay Phase 3 planning application

Vulcan

Following an announcement by the Secretary of State for Defence that radioactivity had been detected from Vulcan's reactor core in the cooling water in the sealed primary cooling circuit in 2012. The RS Manager attended the main Dounreay Stakeholder meeting in addition to the usual SEPA representative. Radioactive discharges to atmosphere, although increased did not exceed 43% of the limit set by SEPA and discharges at the limit would result in a dose to the most exposed group of approximately one billionth of the dose limit for the public.

Stewart Ballantine

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