



Dounreay Stakeholder Group  
Site Restoration Sub Group Update Report  
July 2014



## **Site Inspection Work & RSA Compliance**

Further to the issue noted in SEPA's April report, in respect of a fuel can being damaged within the PFR facility and the potential for the release of activity into the pond water and a potential for gaseous discharges of Krypton-85 and tritium to have occurred 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 these radionuclides which may have occurred as a result of the damage to the fuel can are well below the authorised limits. SEPA has concluded its investigation of this matter and has written to DSRL to request that DSRL undertake a detailed review of the site's arrangements for the sampling of authorised discharges.

In April DSRL notified SEPA about a small spill of bund water (circa 250 ml) to the non-active drainage system. Sample analysis of the water undertaken on behalf of SEPA has indicated the presence of very low levels of activity although the radiological consequences of the discharges are considered to be very low. As a result SEPA is intending to undertake an inspection of DSRL's arrangements for the characterisation of liquid wastes which underpin DSRL's consignment of wastes into the inactive drainage system.

In May DSRL notified SEPA about an incident involving the ignition of a small quantity of waste within a waste handling cell. The initiator of the fire was a faulty light that had been changed and put on a work surface adjacent to the waste (approx. 20 "Kimwipe" tissues"). 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.

During May the Radioactive Substances Unit Manager attended the Dounreay site and met with the DSRL Managing Director.

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

## **RSA Authorisations**

SEPA has determined the application made by Dounreay Site Restoration Limited (DSRL) for an authorisation for the disposal of radioactive waste arising from the decommissioning of the Dounreay site and for the accumulation of radioactive waste outwith the Nuclear Licensed Site. SEPA issued the new authorisation to DSRL on 24 April. This new authorisation replaced the three existing authorisations held by DSRL. The annual authorised limits for the disposals of gaseous and liquid waste have either been reduced or kept at the same level.

### **Other Site Work**

In June SEPA issued DSRL with a new Transfrontier Shipment Authorisation for the shipment of cemented radioactive waste from Dounreay to Belgium. The Authorisation relates to the return of radioactive waste which arose from the reprocessing of spent fuel which was previously undertaken at Dounreay.

SEPA attended the NDA's Spent Fuels and Nuclear Materials strategic Theme Oversight Group and the Dounreay Exotics Regulatory forum.

SEPA received a briefing on DFR Breeder status, had a joint meeting with ONR on the UFCF & exotics and carried out inspections on tenants on site who have Band C Registrations.

### **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. SEPA will also undertake a full inspection of DSRL's management system prior to written agreement being given for operations to commence.

### **Site End State**

SEPA has put in place a project manager and project board to assist with and oversee SEPA's input to this programme of work.

SEPA's hydrogeology specialists have now completed a detailed review of DSRL's approach to the characterisation of Zone 1B. SEPA will be building upon the early feedback given to DSRL in February in due course.

### **Non-Nuclear Site Regulation**

In June SEPA staff met with DSRL to discuss the poor performance in respect of management and control of discharges via the non-active drainage system. Discussion covered onsite management of projects, bunding arrangements, offsite drainage which impacts site discharges and compliance with the site Waste Management Licence (which also controls non-active aqueous discharges from the site). SEPA understands that DSRL are working on a programme of improvements which will be shared with SEPA.

**Vulcan**

SEPA met with the new DNSR inspector for Vulcan.

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