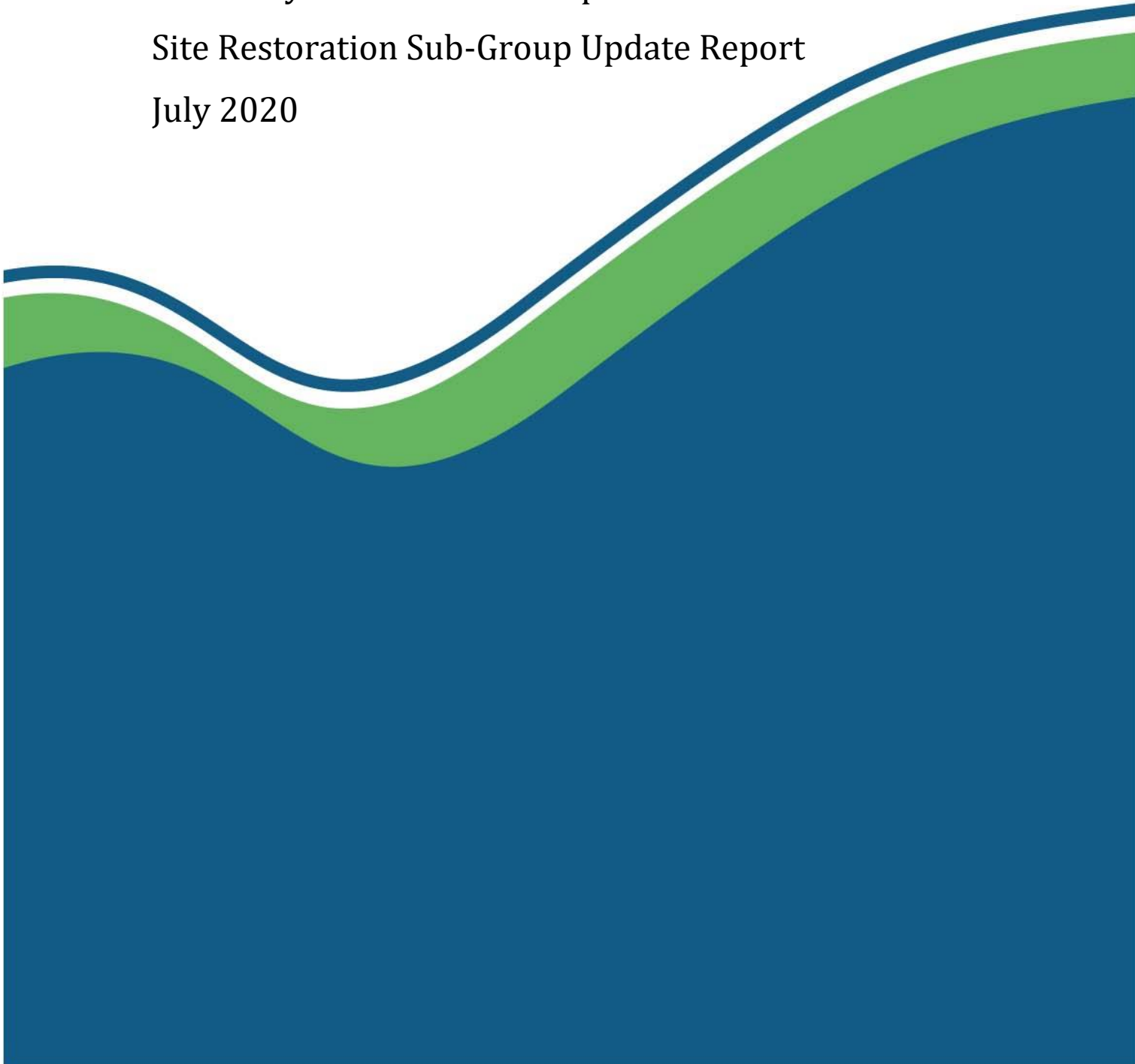




Dounreay Stakeholder Group
Site Restoration Sub-Group Update Report
July 2020



COVID-19

Full details of SEPA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic are available on our website at;

<https://coronavirus.sepa.org.uk/>.

SEPA's temporary regulatory position statement on management of radioactive substances at nuclear sites is available online at;

<https://coronavirus.sepa.org.uk/regulatory-position/management-of-radioactive-substances-at-nuclear-sites-regulatory-position/>

SEPA continue to maintain weekly engagement with DSRL throughout the shutdown period and review DSRL's updates to its contingency plan. In addition, SEPA is undertaking remote inspections of DSRL's arrangements for compliance and reviewing supporting documentation to maintain its regulatory oversight of DSRL until site based inspections become possible.

No plans are in place to begin site-based inspections in the short term. SEPA will continue to monitor Scottish Government guidance and will reinstate site visits to Dounreay when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Regulatory Notices

As previously reported, SEPA has varied Regulatory Notices RN01 and RN02 in respect of actions due for completion in 2020 to extend completion timescales by three months in response to the impacts of the Covid-19 restrictions. SEPA's remote inspection work includes assessment of DSRL's addressing of notice actions.

Compliance

DSRL have, in line with requirements of its EASR permit, reported to SEPA a potential non-compliance in respect of an aqueous discharge via the non-active outfall 2 from a sump collecting groundwater in the vicinity of the D1208 facility. Very low levels of radioactivity (Cs-137) were identified in samples taken in early 2020 as part of programme of enhanced sampling to support DSRL developing its understanding of water movement leading to the Low Level Waste Pits. SEPA are awaiting confirmation from DSRL if they believe this discharge constituted a breach of the sites EASR permit while progressing with its own investigation.

Low Level Waste Facility

SEPA has maintained engagement with the LLWF team throughout the Covid period and held a number of discussions in relation to DSRL's development of its updated Environmental Safety Case for the facility.

SEPA has now put in place a schedule for undertaking remote inspections with the first of these programmed to take place at the end of July.

SEPA have also been engaging with DSRL regarding the work to optimise the stacking and grouting of the HHISO waste packages in the LLW vault. This work is proceeding well and we anticipate that a well-developed plan for executing this work, as and when it is possible, will be shared with SEPA soon.

Stewart Ballantine

Radioactive Substances Unit