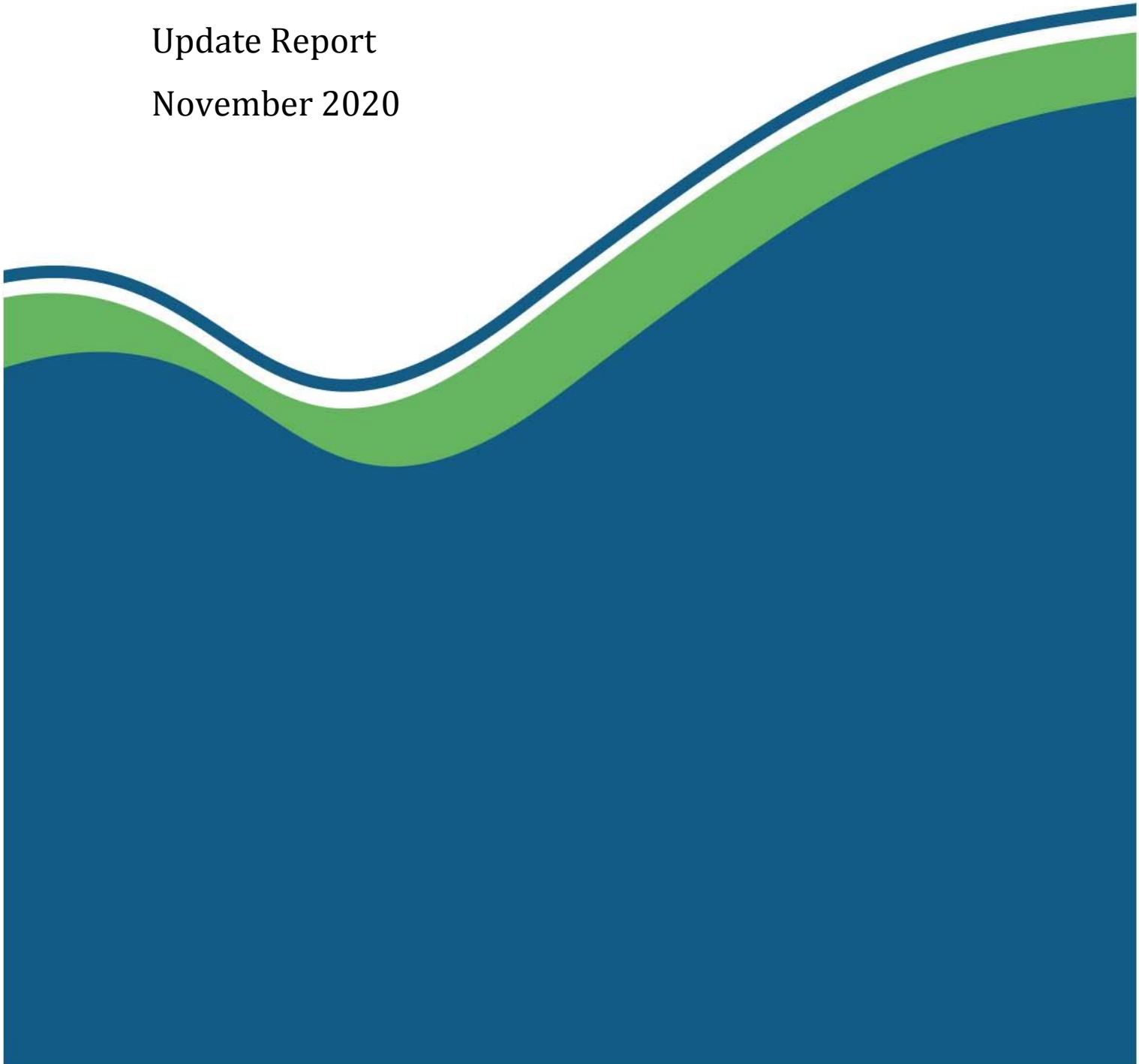




Dounreay Site Restoration Sub-Group Stakeholder Group

Update Report

November 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.

SEPA has not yet recommenced site-based inspections, however it is progressing its plans for this. Any decisions will take full account of current Scottish Government guidance.

Compliance

SEPA has commissioned PHE to undertake radiological analysis of samples from each of the six non-active effluent outfalls from the Dounreay site. Samples were provided to PHE by DSRL in October 2020 and SEPA expect to receive the results from PHE by early December. In parallel SEPA are reviewing a sample of the discharge agreements DSRL's internal management arrangements require for all discharges to the non-active system from facilities and areas across the site.

During September and October SEPA has continued to engage with DSRL on its arrangements for restart of site operations, which has included remote inspection of the restart checks undertaken in the PFR, DFR and D1206 facilities and discussion with DSRL regarding provision of training to staff that DSRL was unable to complete during lockdown.

SEPA has also engaged remotely with DSRL on a number of projects including the DMTR decommissioning project, shaft and silo waste retrieval project and the D1203 space extract ventilation ductwork replacement project.

Authorisation Variation Application

SEPA has received an application from DSRL for a variation to their site EASR authorisation.

The application for the variation is to allow Dounreay to accept radioactive waste in the form of:

- Debris in fuel flasks received from Sellafield and;
- Items found during environmental monitoring.

The debris is present in fuel transport flasks used for the transfer of DFR breeder material from Dounreay to Sellafield.

The application does not seek to increase any of the authorised limits within the permit or to dispose of the fuel flask debris on the Dounreay premises.

Due to the nature of the variation application, SEPA has decided that formal public consultation is not required.

Low Level Waste Facility

SEPA has maintained engagement with the LLWF team throughout the COVID period with regular weekly meetings. We are also continuing our regular engagement in relation to DSRL's development of its updated Environmental Safety Case for the facility.

Vulcan

Vulcan has and continues to operate in compliance with the requirements of its Letter of Agreement through the Covid period.

Stewart Ballantine

Radioactive Substances Unit