

Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group

Site Restoration Sub-Group



Site Inspection Work and EASR Compliance

During the reporting period SEPA has engaged regularly with NRS-Dounreay on matters relating to ongoing projects including Reactor Decommissioning, FCA decommissioning, Shaft and Silo. SEPA remains content that work is progressing in a manner compliant with the requirements of EASR.

SEPA's ongoing engagement with NRS-Dounreay has continued during the period of industrial action at the site. We have also been engaged with the site on the organisational changes which are being implemented at Dounreay as part of its adoption of a programmatic approach.

In April, SEPA undertook a compliance inspection of the site statutory gaseous samplers including arrangements for acceptance into service, maintenance and checking of systems, which found Dounreay to be compliant with the relevant EASR permit conditions. As a result of observations made during the inspection, SEPA made a number of recommendations relating to sampler alarm setting and checking of sampler systems.

In May, SEPA undertook an inspection of NRS's Radioactive Waste Adviser arrangements. During the inspection a permit non-compliance was identified due to a lack of appointed provision within with Corporate RWA Body, relating to gaseous discharge stack sampling for engineering. NRS has advised SEPA of its plan for addressing the identified lack of appointed provision.

SEPA will be undertaking a compliance inspection of maintenance arrangements and records during w/c 8 July at a number of facilities across the site. This visit will also include updates on aspects of the Near Term Work Plan and the Lifetime Plan.

Following the incident at the PFR sodium tank farm in April 2022, SEPA issued an Information Notice to DSRL requiring provision of information on drainage and liquid monitoring arrangements relating to the enhanced weathering process. Following the transfer of the Dounreay site EASR permit from DSRL to Magnox Ltd an Information Notice was issued to Magnox Limited, requiring provision of the same information. NRS-Dounreay has informed SEPA that any future treatment of the sodium will not be by the enhanced weathering method and it has identified an alternative preferred treatment process. As NRS-Dounreay is no longer intending to progress the enhanced weathering process it is no longer necessary to require provision of the information specified in the Information Notice. Hence, SEPA has issued a Notice of Withdrawal in relation to the Information Notice which had been issued to Magnox Limited

Variation Application

In April, SEPA issued a variation to the EASR permit to include an additional discharge stack to support the decommissioning of PFR. The variation did not make any change to current discharge limits.

Low Level Radioactive Waste Facility

SEPA continue to engage with the LLWF team on a regular basis and are content that the facility continues to operate in a compliant manner.

Progress continues with the determination of the permit application for variation with peer review expected to take place towards the end of first quarter 2024.

Non-Nuclear Site Regulation

Nothing to report.

Vulcan

Nothing to report.

Stewart Ballantine

Radioactive Substances Unit

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