

Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group

Site Restoration Sub-Group



SEPA organisational update

Following a recent recruitment process Matthew Firth has now joined the Dounreay radioactive substances regulatory team. Matthew has previous experience as a non-nuclear regulator for SEPA and externally supporting the Oil and Gas Industry.

Site Inspection Work & EASR Compliance

During the reporting period SEPA has continued with its engagement with Dounreay at a programme level or directly with project teams or facilities on matters including permit compliance, waste management including the Combined Sewage System and the Low Level Waste Pits, FCA decommissioning, Reactor decommissioning, Shaft & Silo, Site Services, laboratory activities and beach monitoring.

As previously advised, in October 2025, SEPA issued a Regulatory Notice (RN/2025-0003) to NRS, requiring it to undertake a review of the management arrangements in place for the disposal of aqueous liquid waste to ensure:

1. Radioactive waste is only disposed of to a route authorised in NRS' permit
2. Appropriate sampling and analysis of waste is undertaken to underpin consignment to the appropriate disposal route
3. Written procedures relating to the disposal of aqueous liquid waste are implemented

NRS provided SEPA with a report on the written outcomes of its review, in advance of the due date. In May, SEPA undertook an inspection of the review work undertaken by NRS. Based on the findings of this inspection, SEPA is of the view that the review work undertaken by NRS has adequately addressed the requirements of this Regulatory Notice.

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.

SEPA has also undertaken three inspections of the facility so far this calendar year, two carried out remotely via Teams and a visit to the site in June. No compliance issues were identified during these inspections

Non-Nuclear Site Regulation

Nothing to report.

Vulcan

SEPA continues to engage with Vulcan on work being undertaken to underpin its discharge reporting.

Stewart Ballantine

Radioactive Substances Unit

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