

Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update- Chapelcross

18th March 2026

Regulation

Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR)- Radioactive Substances

Following on from the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions, telephone communication with the site has continued including formal monthly telephone calls. Routine teleconferences with the Chapelcross site and the corporate NRS (Magnox Ltd) team on strategic issues have also continued as before.

SEPA undertook an inspection at the Chapelcross on the 27th November 2025. The inspection looked at progress in decommissioning the Chapelcross Processing Plant (CXPP). Historically the CXPP has been the source of significant discharges of gaseous tritium from the site. The inspection found that the site had made significant progress in decommissioning the facility and has used robust procedures to demonstrate that BPM has been used during decommissioning to minimise, as far as reasonably practicable, the impact on the public and the environment.

SEPA continues in determining the site's application for a variation to their EASR permit. This application relates to an increase in the site limit for the discharge of gaseous radionuclides excluding tritium. SEPA will inform the SSG when the public consultation starts.

SEPA has received an application for variation the EASR permit. This is associated with the gaseous discharge limits from the Interim Storage Facility and is intended to support the management of temporary storage vessels that will be stored within the facility following their suitable packaging.

Non-Rad Regulation

There have been no environmental issues relating to non-radioactive regulation since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Environmental Events

NRS reported a minor incident to SEPA in January 2026. This relates to the release of a small volume of lightly contaminated rainwater from a gaseous discharge stack on the site following the failure of a valve. SEPA attended site on 12 March to follow up on this incident. There was no impact on the environment or public associated with the incident.

Radioactivity in Food & the Environment (RIFE)

RIFE is a collaborative report on work carried out by SEPA, the other UK environment agencies, Food Standards Scotland and Food Standards Agency on the radiological monitoring of food and the environment in the UK. The RIFE reports aim to provide an in-depth assessment of radioactivity in food and the environment in the UK and the public's exposure to radiation, including in the vicinity of the Chapelcross site. The RIFE report incorporates the results from the analysis of a wide range of samples and key information on local habits to demonstrate both that food remains safe and that the public's exposure to ionising radiation is within legal limits.

The latest edition, RIFE 30, covers the year 2024 and can be accessed electronically at [RIFE 30, Radioactivity in Food and the Environment, 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

Dr David Stone

05/03/2026