Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Buidheann Dìon Àrainneachd na h-Alba

For the future of our environment

Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group

Site Restoration Sub-Group

October 2026

Site Inspection Work & EASR Radioactive Substances Compliance

During the reporting period SEPA has engaged regularly with Dounreay at a programme level or directly with project teams or facilities on matters including permit compliance, waste management, FCA decommissioning, Reactor decommissioning, Balance of Site projects including Shaft & Silo, 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. Following completion of NRS' review, SEPA assessed the outcomes report and undertook inspection of supporting information and evidence. SEPA concluded that NRS has adequately addressed the requirements of the Regulatory Notice. SEPA issued a notice withdrawing the Regulatory Notice to NRS in August.

A site visit was undertaken in July which included inspection of LLW stores and training records. NRS were recorded as compliant with the relevant permit conditions.
During the visit sessions were held with NRS covering options assessment for managing discharges with very low levels of radioactivity and management of leachate from the onsite LLW Pits.

A site visit was undertaken in September which included inspection of site arrangements for monitoring of Sandside beach and records related to analysis of particles recovered. NRS were recorded as compliant with the relevant permit conditions.
During the visit sessions were held with NRS covering management of leachate from the onsite LLW Pits and the programme of work being undertaken to address the output of the review of management arrangements in place for disposal of aqueous liquid waste arising across site as required by Regulatory Notice RN/2025-003.

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. During August a compliance inspection was undertaken looking at matters including training and operational management plans.

Non-Nuclear Site Regulation

During August hazardous items were found within a non-hazardous waste load from the PFR roof project. The issue was isolated by contractor, no environmental impact occurred, and additional waste assurance measures have been introduced. In June low levels of PCBs were detected in D1400 sump water during routine monitoring. Results were confined to sump water and do not indicate contamination of site discharges. Follow-up sampling and investigations are underway, with no impact on site discharges or compliance identified.

Vulcan

No matters to note from a radioactive substances perspective.

In respect of non-nuclear engagement in October a small hydraulic oil leak from a MEWP caused by a failed seal was reported to SEPA. Spill response was activated straight away, drains and foreshore were checked, and no significant environmental impact was found. During September an oil spill was found in a car park during heavy rain. The area was cleaned up quickly and inspections found no evidence of environmental harm. A review of older equipment in August identified three X-ray units that may contain PCB-contaminated fluids. The units were taken out of service as a precaution ahead of regulatory deadlines

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