

SEPA Decision on Authorisation for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste.

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Summary and Recommendation:

This report is a brief update on the application made by Magnox Ltd regarding the disposal of Low Level Waste from Chapelcross and the decision made by Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Recommendation: The contents of this report are noted.

1. SEPA Decision

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) consulted Copeland Borough Council on 2 separate applications. The first application was from Magnox Ltd for permission to dispose of Low Level Waste (LLW) from Chapelcross the second similar application is from Magnox Ltd for a revised authorization for disposal of waste from Hunterston A site.

SEPA intends to issue an authorisation to Magnox Limited for the disposal of radioactive waste from the decommissioning of the Chapelcross works.

The Hunterston A site application is still being determined. The issues raised by the Council have been considered as relevant to both applications and therefore have been addressed in the response to the Chapelcross consultation.

2. Background to application and decision

Magnox Ltd applied (amongst others) to:

- Dispose of Very low level waste (VLLW) to the operator of the Lillyhall Landfill Facility in Cumbria or to any Specified Landfill.

Cumbria County Council and Copeland Borough Council objected to the proposal due to the unplanned and uncoordinated way new disposal routes will be developed relying on the supply

chain to come forward with sites. The Councils also objected on grounds of perception, lack of capacity for wastes and an over reliance on Cumbria to accommodate the UK's radioactive waste.

SEPA have taken the view that Local issues such as perception and lack of capacity should have been addressed for the Lillyhall site when planning permission was granted and appropriate conditions if warranted applied. They consider that such matters are not a "material particular" for SEPA in authorising the transfer of waste.

SEPA approach is that it is also **not** necessary or appropriate to consider the radiological impacts (of the transfers) at the receiving facility as these have already been taken account of and are controlled by the appropriate regulators and operator at the receiving facility under their authorisation.

No specific disposal route is included in SEPA's authorisation. The waste can be sent to any authorised site provided it is Best Practical Means (BPM).

The Council stated that we were unsatisfied with the level of consultation undertaken by SEPA. SEPA response to this is that "we do not believe it is necessary or proportionate for SEPA to require further stakeholder considerations as a part of the radioactive substances act authorisation process for waste consignors, rather this is most appropriately undertaken when waste management facilities go through their own permissioning processes."

3. Way Forward

This issue the Council rose which concern aspects of Government Policy and the setting of the Low Level Waste Policy has been drawn to the attention of the Scottish Government who are responsible for policy matters in Scotland.

SEPA have similarly made government aware of the wider concerns regarding the appropriateness stakeholder engagement raised by both Copeland Borough and Cumbria County Council.

We are still awaiting the decision on the second application Hunterston A.