

## Introduction

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of Dungeness A and B sites and related environmental matters.

## Nuclear regulation

Phil Fahey is the lead regulator for the Dungeness A site. Andrew Stone is the lead regulator for the Dungeness B site.

Phil and Andrew both work in the Nuclear Regulation Group (South). Officers from the Kent Area Environment Agency team also visit the site for general environment protection matters such as groundwater, contaminated land, waste management and water abstraction.

We work closely with other regulators such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) in areas of common interest.

## Attendance at site

We regulate radioactive waste disposals through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We check compliance with the permit by making regular inspections. These are recorded on Compliance Assessment Reports which detail our inspections and any non-compliance found; they are placed on our Public Register.

We visited Dungeness A on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January, 26<sup>th</sup> April and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

We visited Dungeness B on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> February and 26/27<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Regular contact is also maintained with the sites by telephone and e-mail in addition to formal correspondence.

## Discharge reports

Both sites are required to report to us liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment and transfers of radioactive waste to other sites on a regular basis. These reports are placed on the public register. Liquid and gaseous discharges from both Dungeness sites remain within the limits set by the Environmental Permits.

After 20 years of providing a mapping service to our customers, the *What's In Your BackYard* mapping service will be decommissioned on 27 July. The technology used by the system is no longer supported and at risk of failing.

## Environmental monitoring

The Operators carry out monitoring of various environmental samples at periodic intervals and report the information to us. Dungeness B staff carry out the work on behalf of both sites. The programmes are slightly different to reflect the radionuclides that are being discharged, the historical discharges and the operational activities taking place at each site.

In addition to the Operators' environmental monitoring programme the Environment Agency participates in an independent UK-wide monitoring programme. The results of these monitoring programmes are published annually and are used to assess the dose received by members of the public in the vicinity of nuclear licensed sites. Radiation doses to people living around nuclear licensed sites from authorised releases of radioactivity were well below the UK national and European limit of 1000 micro Sieverts ( $\mu\text{Sv}$ ) per year in 2015.

## Current regulatory issues

### Dungeness A

#### Inspections

We had catch up meetings at site on 30<sup>th</sup> January and 26<sup>th</sup> April.

On 31<sup>st</sup> January we performed an inspection on management arrangements at Dungeness A. On 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017 we performed an inspection on Low Level Waste. There were some recommendations but no non-compliances noted from these inspections.

#### Portal monitor event

In January 2017 we were informed by the Operator that a metal waste skip leaving site had caused the gate post monitor to alarm. The waste was supposed to be non-radioactive waste but on investigation was found to contain a small amount of active material. The skip was isolated and the active material removed.

We received the root cause investigation report which revealed some failures of process at site. The event resulted in 2 minor breaches to the permit. As no waste left the premises we gave 2 category 4 non-compliances for these breaches and our enforcement response was to give advice and guidance on this occasion. Since this event we have noted that processes and segregation of metallic waste at site have improved.

#### Particulates in aqueous waste.

At the end of March 2017 the Operator informed us that small amounts of particulate debris had been seen in samples taken from the final delay tanks prior to discharge. The Operator is required to use best available to techniques to exclude all entrained solids from aqueous waste discharges. As a result of the finding all aqueous discharges were stopped from these tanks.

Further investigation revealed that the debris was not enhanced activity. As a consequence the discharges recommenced. The Operator investigated the cause of the debris and found it to be bacterial growth. The tanks and associated systems are in the process of being cleaned out. To assist with aqueous waste discharges whilst the tanks are being cleaned, effluent has been diverted through the Dungeness A dissolution

plant and discharged via this alternative route. Local area colleagues were involved in the decision to allow this transfer. The Operator has informed us that there is the same level of treatment and monitoring of effluent through both discharge routes.

### Dungeness B

EdF Energy has applied for a variation to the Environmental Permit for discharging water to the English Channel to cater for a proposed new sewage treatment plant on site. The intention is that it will replace the old A-site sewage treatment plant that is still in use by the B station.

EdF Energy has also applied for a variation to the Environmental Permit for transferring radioactive waste to off-site premises.

We carried out a joint inspection with the Office for Nuclear Regulation in aspects of radioactive waste management.

We also carried out a site visit to discuss the proposed sewage treatment plant and historic groundwater contamination.

We have reviewed various reports submitted by EdF Energy that are required under the Environmental Permits. This includes an annual declaration of substances released in to the environment.

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