

Update of ongoing Work by UK Government to Develop a UK Strategy for the Management of Waste Containing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM)

Jim Cochrane, Laura Kerr

Jim Cochrane, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Erskine Court, Castle Business Park, Stirling, Scotland

Laura Kerr, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Clearwater House, Heriot Watt Research Park, Avenue North, Edinburgh, Scotland

Jim Cochrane – 01786 452 568, jim.cochrane@sepa.org.uk

Laura Kerr – 0131 273 7340, laura.kerr@sepa.org.uk

Abstract

This presentation will be given on behalf of UK Government and is to share the findings and conclusions of on-going work to develop a Strategy for managing naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) waste generated by the UK non-nuclear industry. .

A policy statement was published by UK Government on 26 March 2007 which set out the principles for the long-term management of the UK's solid low level radioactive waste, (LLW). This LLW policy statement required the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency (NDA) to develop a UK-wide strategy for the management of solid low level radioactive wastes arising from the nuclear industry; this was published on 26 August 2010. The policy statement, also acknowledged that a UK-wide strategy was needed for solid radioactive waste arising from the non-nuclear industry. A decision was made to split the strategy in two parts: Part 1 dealt with small users producing relatively low volume arisings of wastes containing mainly anthropogenic radionuclides, this was published on 12 March 2012; Part 2 deals with NORM waste and the Scottish Government is leading on the production of this strategy, on behalf of UK Government.

The aim of the UK NORM Strategy is to ensure that there are safe, sustainable and resilient NORM waste management arrangements in place in the UK for the foreseeable future. Also, the NORM Strategy will identify and take steps to try to overcome obstacles preventing those managing NORM waste from contributing to sustainable economic growth.

The scope of the strategy will include solid and liquid NORM waste produced from operational and decommissioning activities at all industries included in the UK list of 'NORM industrial activities' in the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2011 and the Environmental Permitting (England & Wales)

(Amendment) Regulations 2011. The Strategy will also cover NORM waste produced from the remediation of contaminated land.

The first aim of the Strategy is to gather an overall view of the NORM waste inventory including the volumes and the characteristics of NORM waste produced by UK industry on an annual basis, and future projections of NORM waste production from both operational and decommissioning activities. The Strategy will involve detailed discussions with those in the supply chain offering treatment and disposal solutions to identify current and future constraints on treatment and disposal routes. The output of these discussions will highlight those issues relevant to the management of NORM waste both now and in the future. Finally, the NORM Strategy will assess what options UK Government can take to resolve NORM waste management issues.

As part of the development of the UK NORM Strategy, UK Government commissioned a review of current UK and international policy and legislation relating to NORM waste management. The findings of this report will be highlighted during the presentation.
