

Redacted correspondence 4

From: HPA
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 10:36 AM
To: NHS FIFE
Subject: Re: SEPA press releases

Dear [REDACTED],

Please pause on this. We need to take stock and involve our Comms team. I am uncomfortable that HPA is being pushed into making detailed statements on public health risk assessment without being sure we have all the most recent technical data. Too much of the information we are receiving is qualitative rather than quantitative.

As you know, I am now pushing hard for the strategic meeting to happen asap. Let's try to get some strategic agreement at that meeting, before being drawn into too much press frenzy.

I'll get back with a more specific response to your attachment later today.

From: NHS FIFE
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 09:00 AM
To: HPA
Subject: SEPA press releases

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

I raised concerns at the meeting on Monday that the SEPA press releases require additional information on the balance of risk in order to inform but not frighten the public. I have drafted a section as per my understanding of the discussion on risk at the meeting. Are you happy for me to send this to SEPA comms for inclusion in future press releases?

Future press releases

It would be helpful if any future press releases from SEPA could include the following information:

The recent radioactive particle find at Dalgety Bay does not pose an increased risk to health according to advice from SEPA and the Health Protection Agency (HPA). At a meeting of the Dalgety Bay Forum on Monday 7th November, SEPA presented its findings and confirmed that the large radioactive particle did not pose an increased risk to health. This is for 2 reasons: firstly it was buried at some depth and therefore not easily accessible, secondly it was too big to swallow.

However a particle find of this activity means that the contaminated area would meet the criteria for radioactively contaminated land based on the assessment protocol used by SEPA and SEPA may make a determination of the land – i.e. require action to be taken to remediate the land and ensure long term protection of the public. [REDACTED]
The HPA advises that particles in the area have not led to an increase in detectible

Comment [ANU1]: I don't think designation means that action needs to be taken although SEPA may take this course. SEAP will need to advise on the wording here

background radiation. In 2005 the Dalgety Bay Forum was presented with the results of health studies covered the period 1975-2002 which showed that there had been no increase in cancer incidence rates in the local population. NHS Fife is seeking an update of this information and will report to the Forum as soon as the results are available.

The HPA continue to advise that:

material should not be removed from the beach.

members of the public who handle material on Dalgety Bay, or any other, beach should wash their hands when they leave for general hygiene purposes.

Comment [ANU2]: This isn't just HPA advice but HPA supports this view.

Further information can be found at

http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/news/other/dalgety_bay.aspx

From: NHS FIFE

Sent: 09 November 2011 10:42

To: HPA

Subject: RE: SEPA press releases

Thanks [REDACTED]

From: HPA

Sent: 09 November 2011 11:47

To: SEPA

Subject: Re: Dalgety Bay strategic meeting

Dear [REDACTED],

We are aware of the DB Risk Assessment group meeting in March 2009, but were not aware that it had carried out any activities more recently. I'd be grateful to receive any further information.

Thank you.

From: SEPA

Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 10:43 AM

To: HPA

Subject: RE: Dalgety Bay strategic meeting

[REDACTED], we could now potentially make the 21st, if this is not suitable we may need to teleconference to ensure that we all have the same info prior to the 22nd.

Prior to any meeting have you seen the information and correspondence relating to the Dalgety Bay Risk Assessment Group?

From: HPA

Sent: 09 November 2011 10:17

To: SEPA

Subject: Re: Dalgety Bay strategic meeting

Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED], [REDACTED],

Are these the only Nov dates you can make, [REDACTED]? Unfortunately, [REDACTED] can't make these, as he is at Chilton.

What about scheduling a telecon on one of these days?

From: SEPA

Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 10:08 AM

To: HPA

Subject: RE: Dalgety Bay strategic meeting

Hello [REDACTED]

Our current availability in November is pm on the 14th and 15th November, however, these dates are dependent on a meeting with the MoD prior to the next Forum meeting which would take precedent for SEPA. If other dates become available I will let you know,

From: HPA

Sent: 08 November 2011 16:08

To: SEPA

Subject: Dalgety Bay strategic meeting

Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED], [REDACTED],

I'm sorry that [REDACTED] and I are hassling you about dates for the above meeting, but it really is urgent that we get a date sorted for this meeting. Following SEPA's latest information on its website, we're now being contacted by the press wanting our views on Dalgety Bay. This makes it even more urgent that the strategic meeting is held soon, so that the various agencies can properly understand the situation, ensure the views we express are based on the same facts and be able to brief coherently what the strategy is. So we really do need your November dates.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] has offered to join the meeting on a date she wouldn't normally work, so she is no longer the limiting factor in finding a date.

I've tried to phone you, [REDACTED], and left a message on your answerphone.

(Dare I even suggest that this meeting is more important than holding another forum meeting on Nov 22nd?)

From: HPA

Sent: 09 November 2011 11:43

To: HPA
Subject: RE: Dalgety Bay strategic meeting

Hi [REDACTED],

My understanding aligns with [REDACTED]'s comments she has given you. As far as I'm aware the Group met only once. We have the minutes, and copies of the follow up correspondence from MOD to SEPA (September 2009) and SEPAs reply (October 2009). Following this I'm not aware of any other material or meetings specifically related to the Dalgety Bay Risk Assessment Group.

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From: SEPA
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 10:13 AM
To: HPA
Subject: FW: Re: Dalgety Bay CC website message

[REDACTED],

We have been copied in on this email and it appears that HPA have not been, given recent finds HPA may wish to consider to revisit the Q and A [REDACTED] has sent to the CC to ensure they remain appropriate.

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Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 10:43 AM
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However a particle find of this size means that the contaminated area falls under the legal definition of radioactive contaminated land and SEPA may make a determination of the land – i.e. require action to be taken to remediate the land and ensure long term protection of the public.

The HPA advises that particles in the area have not led to an increase in detectable background radiation. In 2005 the Dalgety Bay Forum was presented with the results of health studies on cancer incidence which showed that there had been no increase

in cancer rates in the local population. This study covered the period 1975-2002. NHS Fife is seeking an update of this information and will report to the Forum as soon as the results are available.

The HPA continue to advise that public using the area should not remove material from the beach. Members of the public who have been handling any material while using this, or any other, beach should wash their hands for general hygiene purposes.

Further information can be found at
http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/news/other/dalgety_bay.aspx

██████████
From: SEPA
Sent: 08 November 2011 09:45
To: HPA
Subject: Dalgety Bay

Dear ██████████,

Yesterday, following the requests from a number of parties, SEPA held an interim meeting of the Dalgety Bay Forum to provide members with an update of the recent work at Dalgety Bay and resultant actions. ██████████ ██████████ attended for the HPA.

The monitoring work undertaken by SEPA has now detected and removed a further 435 radioactive sources from an area which had been previously 'cleared' by an MoD contractor whom has been undertaking the monitoring work at Dalgety Bay in recent years. It is unclear why there should be such a discrepancy in the number of finds; however SEPA consider it unlikely that it is due to rapid re-population as SEPA re-surveyed a small area close to the slipways following the MoD contractor and recovered further radioactive sources prior to the next tide. It is also notable that the same contractor did not detect the presence of the high activity source at Dalgety Bay, and we now believe that there is at least one further such source present at Dalgety Bay which we have asked the MoD to remove prior to the winter storms.

Laboratory analysis work is now beginning on sources recovered from Dalgety Bay. We have confirmed that the high activity source has an activity of around 10 MBq Ra-226 and appears to be in equilibrium with its daughters. Although we have been able measure the gamma dose rate at distance we are unable to obtain close measurements at present due to saturation of the detectors. With regard to soft beta and alpha, no measurements have been possible due to saturation of the detectors. The laboratory work has also begun to isolate the sources to determine physical characteristics, initial information has suggested that many of the sources appear to have similar characteristics as those recovered previously, however a few sources of have been described as 'dust' which, if confirmed, may mean that we will need to revisit the potential inhalation pathway.

From our work to date, it appears that the contamination is largely restricted to the upper 3-4 metres of the tidal area, we believe that this is due to source becoming

deposited on this area following erosion of the made ground, which largely occurs over the winter period. People local to the area have informed us that last winter a large amount of the made ground was eroded, which may have resulted in the mobilisation of the sources which we have been recovering recently. As both our work and the work undertaken by the MoD has shown the presence of radioactive sources within the made ground we believe that a comprehension of the potential release of such sources from the made ground onto the intertidal area via erosion is necessary to inform any resultant prospective risk assessment, and we are hoping to undertake some work on this in the future. From our work on the headland, it is clear that such work will need to determine whether there are caches of sources within the made ground or whether the sources are more homogeneously distributed, if caches of sources are present it may be that these are only released episodically and thus, any risk assessment based on the current rate of finds and activity may either over or under estimate the true hazards on the beach.

With regard to the occupancy of the intertidal area, we have been informed by the sailing club that hundreds of children can be on the beach at any one time and that the area around the slipways is very well used during the sailing season. We have also been informed and have evidence that children have removed artefacts from the beach. However, we believe that the information from habits survey will provide a more robust basis for determining beach occupancy.

Although we have not yet completed our re-survey of the area monitored by the MoD contractor at Dalgety Bay we have stopped current monitoring in order to allow the laboratory work to commence.

We hope to provide more information on the sources recovered from Dalgety Bay in the next few weeks and I will ensure that HPA have sight of those data.

Kind regards,

From: HPA
Sent: 24 October 2011 15:54
To: SEPA
Subject: RE: Dalgety Bay

Dear [REDACTED],

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) supports the approach that SEPA has taken to manage the beach contamination at Dalgety Bay including the current precautionary, interim measure taken to cordon off the area of the foreshore where the recent object with a ^{226}Ra content of 13 MBq was found.

It should be noted that this object is not representative of the large number of objects that have been found on the beaches over a number of years, which have much lower activity concentrations. Therefore, HPA supports SEPA's view that further monitoring of the beach should be carried out and any objects containing significant levels of ^{226}Ra removed. HPA also advises that characterisation of the 13 MBq object and a sample of other retrieved objects is made (including object size,

solubility, radionuclide content, distribution of contamination on or within the object and measured skin dose rate).

This further work together with information on the extent to which different groups of people use the beach area, should enable a full public health risk assessment to be performed. HPA advises that a full public health risk assessment is performed, noting that such a public health risk assessment must take account of the likelihood that different groups of beach users could come into contact with objects of this level of activity.

Please contact me should you require any further views on this matter.

Regards

From: HPA
Sent: 18 October 2011 11:02
To: SEPA
Subject: RE: Dalgety Bay

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to your request for advice on the Dalgety Bay situation, we will be very pleased to assist and will return to you shortly with our response.

Regards

From: SEPA
Sent: 14 October 2011 16:19
To: HPA
Subject: RE: Dalgety Bay

Dear

On Wednesday, SEPA recovered a source from Dalgety Bay which had an indicative in field activity of 13 MBq Ra-226 (which is an order of magnitude greater than anything previously reported). As the majority of area around where the source was recovered has yet to be monitored by SEPA we could not exclude the possibility of further similar sources being present. As a precautionary and interim measure we have asked Fife Council to erect further signs and demarcate the area with tape until SEPA has been able to complete the survey of the area (and remove any significant sources detected).

We would therefore like to ask HPA's advice on this matter and whether any further actions are needed

[REDACTED]

From: SEPA
Sent: 04 November 2011 13:00
To: HPA; MOD; @scotland.gsi.gov.uk; FSA
Subject: Dalgety Bay Gamma Dose Rate - high activity radium source

Dear all,

Please see the information below from our contractor on the potential gamma dose rate from the high activity source recovered from Dalgety Bay.

██████████