

Information about living near a Nuclear Power Station

Introduction

REPPIR 2019 places a duty of the local authority to provide information to those living within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone of Hunterston B Nuclear Power Station.

REPPIR 2019 states that information should be available in an appropriate manner and in an accessible format to members of the public living with the Outline Planning Zone and if they request information they should be directed to it or provided with access to it. It must be noted that the risk from nuclear power stations has not changed.

What is the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ)?

The DEPZ is an area close to the site where it is considered proportionate to pre-define protective actions which would be implemented without delay to mitigate the most likely consequences of a radiation emergency. Previously, the DEPZ was determined by ONR (Office for Nuclear Regulation) by way of a circle around the site of varying distances depending on the site, many of which is historical and, in the case of Hunterston related to when Hunterston A Power Station was generating power. REPPIR 2019 states that the local authority should “accept the operator’s recommendation of the minimum geographical extent of the DEPZ contained within the Consequence Report” and that the local authority who have the local knowledge and expertise, “should only change that area to extend it because of local geographical, demographic and practical implementation issues, the need to avoid bisecting communities or to include vulnerable groups at the outer limit of the area”.

The DEPZ around the Hunterston B Power Station includes 45 households and 9 commercial premises and all of these properties received a letter from the local authority confirming that they are living within the DEPZ; outlining the new arrangements and providing details of where they can get further information if they require this via the North Ayrshire Council website.

What is the OPZ?

The OPZ is the Outline Planning Zone which is a 30km radius of the site and further information is available on the council’s website. The local authorities within the 30km area are aware and have information on their websites linking back to North Ayrshire to ensure a single source of information is available.

Prior Information

As is the current practice, all residents and businesses within the DEPZ will receive a calendar which contains information on what they should do in the event of a nuclear emergency.

Information to be provided on Website

There are a number of documents which will be available on the website:

- The Hunterston B Nuclear Power Station Off Site Contingency Plan (redacted)
- Consequence Report for Hunterston B Nuclear Power Station
- Report submitted to Council and their decision on the DEPZ (December 2020)
- A copy of the information that is included in the calendar

- Details of the Outline Planning Zone (OPZ) and how the information regarding an incident is provided to those living within the OPZ.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the current DEPZ?

The current DEPZ is 2km although it is larger than that in some areas due to it not being a circle. It still includes all properties that were previously included. Measures are only required within this area and all residents are aware that they are within the DEPZ of Hunterston B Nuclear Power Station.

Has the risk increased?

There is no change to the risk. The changes apply to all civil nuclear sites across the UK; not just Hunterston B and are due to a UK government legislation change driven by BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy). The new REPIR regulations are driven by a culture of continuous improvement and builds on robust arrangements already in place.

How will we know if there is a nuclear incident?

As soon as a nuclear incident is declared the public will be informed in a variety of ways:

- Those living within the DEPZ will be informed by telephone (if they have previously registered to the service)
- The information will be relayed over news channels (both radio and TV), websites and social media

I do not live within the DEPZ but live quite close will I be informed that there has been an incident?

- You will not be informed directly and, as above, you will be informed via news channels (both radio and TV), websites and social media.