

# Nuclear and defence site decommissioning.



This briefing provides an update (June 2012) on CIRIA's programme of work relating to decommissioning on nuclear and defence sites. It also introduces a new web site providing access to guidance, information and outputs from this programme including access to video recordings of SAFESPUR presentations.

## BACKGROUND

CIRIA's collaborative and consensus-forming approach to guidance development, together with its cross-disciplinary platform spanning environmental, waste, contaminated land, design, construction and deconstruction issues led, in 1998, to the creation of a new stream of work relating to decommissioning on nuclear and defence sites.

Over the years, this has existed as three inter-related programmes:

**SAFEGROUNDS** – focussing on the management of radioactively and chemically contaminated land

**SD-SPUR** – focussing on non-active / low activity waste

**SAFESPUR** – an events network initially focussing on SAFEGROUNDS and SD-SPUR, but whose remit has been expanded to cover a broader range of topics.

## SAFESPUR

The SAFESPUR Network organises a regular programme of events considering the following topics. Recent speakers have included representatives from the Site Licensee Companies, Regulators and industry supply chain. Topics have included regulatory, technology and social (stakeholder) matters spanning:

**Land management** from characterisation, through choice of management methods to implementation, monitoring and record keeping.

**Waste hierarchy** from avoiding their production, through recycling and re-use, to choice of disposal method.

Membership of the SAFESPUR network is by subscription. Details of how to join, together with a summary of recent events and speakers are shown on the new SAFEGROUNDSPLUS web- site [www.safegrounds.com/safespur\\_membership.htm](http://www.safegrounds.com/safespur_membership.htm) CIRIA Core Members are entitled to a 25% subscription discount.

Members enjoy free attendance at SAFESPUR events, plus access to notes of events and presentations.

SAFESPUR now has separate governance arrangements marking its independence of the SAFEGROUNDS and SD-SPUR network.

## VIDEO RECORDINGS

The recent event on recycling of crushed concrete was professionally recorded on video. Presentations can be accessed via the new SAFEGROUNDS site. [www.safegrounds.com/recent\\_events.htm](http://www.safegrounds.com/recent_events.htm) Following the event a page has also been constructed with links to a range of WRAP guidance.

## SAFEGROUNDS & SD-SPUR

The focus of these networks until recently was on the development and updating of guidance. The SAFEGROUNDS suite of guidance, in particular, has been widely used. Its production involved wide stakeholder consultation and was overseen by a Steering Group formed of Site Licensee Companies, NDA, Regulators and Non Government bodies including anti-nuclear NGOs,

Guides and information papers include:

- Good practice guidance for the management of contaminated land on nuclear-licensed and defence sites (version 2 2009)
- Good practice guidance for site characterisation (version 2 2009)
- Guide to the comparison of contaminated land management options (June 2009)
- Community stakeholder involvement (2011)
- Perspectives on the health risks from low levels of ionising radiation
- SAFEGROUNDS Key Principles.

These can be downloaded, free of charge, from the web site [www.safegrounds.com/guidance.htm](http://www.safegrounds.com/guidance.htm)

The administration and governance of SAFEGROUNDS and SD-SPUR has recently been brought together under a single group SAFEGROUNDS+ (including SD-SPUR). The overall remit remains unchanged.

## CASE STUDIES

The current emphasis of the network is on learning from the application of the SAFEGROUNDS Key Principles and guidance.

### **SAFEGROUNDS Key Principles**

Key Principle 1: Protection of people and the environment

Key Principle 2: Stakeholder involvement

Key Principle 3: Identifying the preferred land management option

Key Principle 4: Immediate action

Key Principle 5: Record-keeping

Case studies produced to date include:

- The application of SAFEGROUNDS principles and guidance to the management of very low level waste disposal at the Hunterstone A site
- Characterisation of the Dounreay Castle site.
- Remediation of radioactively and chemically contaminated land at Harwell.

Two further case studies will be uploaded shortly:

- Investigation of concerns of enriched uranium contamination at Hinkley Point
- De-licensing of the Harwell site

## TAKING PART / KEEPING IN TOUCH

There are two routes for engaging with the forward programme of events, case studies and other activities.

1. By joining the SAFESPUR Network  
(This is an organisation-wide membership enabling all employees to enjoy the benefit of membership\*) Contact [sarah.macpherson@ciria.org](mailto:sarah.macpherson@ciria.org)
2. By requesting to be added to CIRIA's Nuclear Interest mailing list  
(If you occasionally receive SAFESPUR event reminders, then you are already on the list! )
3. By visiting [www.safespur.org](http://www.safespur.org) which contains details of forthcoming events.

