



# SAFE ENERGY E-JOURNAL No.57

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This briefing does not deal with the UK Government's proposed new reactor programme. For an update on developments to do with new reactors see here:

<http://www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk/nuclearnews/NuClearNewsNo45.pdf>

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## 1 Scottish Parliamentary Matters

The Scottish Parliament's Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee has been taking "*a hard and realistic look at whether the Scottish Government's [Renewable Energy] targets are achievable*". (1) The "Report on the achievability of the Scottish Government's renewable energy targets" was published on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012. (2)

While the media focussed on the Committee's dismissal of Donald Trump's warning that wind turbines will do "tremendous damage" to tourism in Scotland, the Committee also concluded that Scotland can feasibly deliver 100 per cent of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.

However, the report also argued that the goal can only be met if the government and industry overcome a series of barriers to investment, including a looming skills gap in the renewable industry, an overly complex planning system, and difficulties accessing finance for new projects.

Tory MSP, Murdo Fraser, convener of the committee, said its recommendations were crucial to the success of the renewable industry in Scotland. He said the target can only be achieved if the issues raised in the report are acted upon. The MSPs also raised concerns that the UK's forthcoming Energy Bill could create incentives that would "unduly" divert investment from renewables to gas. WWF urged the Scottish government to take steps to prevent a "dash for gas" north of the border. (3)

The Committee pointed out that while Scotland is currently ahead of where it needs to be to reach its renewable heat target, the ongoing delay in the introduction of a domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) may hamper the ability to reach the 2020 goal. Jenny Hogan, Director of Policy for the trade body Scottish Renewables, also said she was pleased that the committee highlighted renewable heat and the difficult challenges ahead to reach the 2020 targets. As heat accounts for



over half of our energy use, Hogan would like to have seen more detail on how technologies such as biomass, solar and heat pumps will play their part in Scotland's energy mix. (4) She continued:

*"The Committee rightly concludes that renewable energy is not only crucial to reducing greenhouse gas emissions but is also good for energy security and protection against volatile energy prices."*

### Community and locally-owned energy

The Committee also highlighted the potential for community-generated renewable energy. Adjustment of planning policy should be considered to give greater consideration to local economic benefits. Some community groups and community councils expressed their concern at a lack of resources to cope with the complexity of technical information provided by developers and complained of an insufficiency of support from local authorities and others such as Planning Aid for Scotland in this. Kelly McIntyre, Fintry Development Trust, told the Committee that —benefits can be negotiated by local communities from day one to ensure that they get something that is important to them. Community benefit payments given voluntarily by renewable developers to local communities do not compare well with the income realised by a community generating its own energy, or taking a stake in a large project. A community-owned scheme 1% of the size of a large development can generate the same income for the local community as the usual community benefit payment attached to such a scheme. The Committee concluded that the generation of community owned energy brings benefits beyond financial ones. The income can increase the sustainability of fragile communities, lead to greater social cohesion and provide work for local people in areas such as energy efficiency. (5)

The Scottish Government has set a target of 500MW of community and locally-owned energy by 2020 and has a number of schemes in place to support it. Recent work by the Energy Saving Trust estimated that, of 147MW of community and locally owned energy generation only 13 per cent of it is community-owned. The Committee concluded that it is unhelpful to lump “community and locally owned” under one target. Communities and local entrepreneurs are likely to have very different needs and the benefits that will accrue from a local, privately owned installation are likely to be very different from one owned by the community. The Committee recommended that the 500MW target is broken down into separate targets for community and locally-owned targets.

### Local authorities

The Committee recommended that local authorities should be encouraged to provide a baseline level of support for community energy projects, complementary to the support offered by Community Energy Scotland, which would help local groups get their own projects off the ground as rapidly as possible. Local authorities should explore whether they could play a greater role in the transition to a low carbon economy, for example by participating in district heating schemes.

- Meanwhile, Scotland is on track to miss virtually all its legally-binding targets to cut climate pollution for the next 15 years, according to the Scottish Government's own senior energy official. Even if ministers adopt all the measures they have currently proposed to cut carbon emissions, Scotland will still fall eight million tonnes short of the target cut mandated by the Scottish Parliament for 2027 in the Climate Change Act. The Scottish Government has



delayed publishing a long-awaited report on the policies and proposals for cutting climate pollution until next year. "The final plan must be a clear and credible package that acts on the advice of the Government's own official advisers to deliver a step-change in policy effort," said Richard Dixon, Director of WWF Scotland. (6)

1. Scottish Parliament Press Release 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_EconomyEnergyandTourismCommittee/General%20Documents/Renewable\\_Call\\_for\\_Evidence\\_NR.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EconomyEnergyandTourismCommittee/General%20Documents/Renewable_Call_for_Evidence_NR.pdf)
2. Report on the achievability of the Scottish Government's renewable energy targets, Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee 7<sup>th</sup> Report, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012  
[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4\\_EconomyEnergyandTourismCommittee/eeR12-07.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EconomyEnergyandTourismCommittee/eeR12-07.pdf)
3. Business Green 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012 <http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2226893/scottish-parliament-rejects-trumps-antiwind-farm-campaign>
4. Click Green 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 <http://www.clickgreen.org.uk/news/national-news/123793-trump-dumped-as-scottish-parliament-rejects-calls-for-renewables-ban.html>
5. Also see the minutes of a recent Scottish Parliamentary Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Group Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 [http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/CrossPartyGroups/Renewable%20Energy%20and%20Energy%20Efficiency/minutes\\_20121115.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/CrossPartyGroups/Renewable%20Energy%20and%20Energy%20Efficiency/minutes_20121115.pdf)
6. Herald on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2012 <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/environment/revealed-how-scotland-will-break-the-law-and-its-own-climate-promises.19504130>

## 2 Nuclear Plant Life Extensions

In May Bloomberg reported that EDF Energy would decide by 2013 whether to extend the life of Hunterston B. (1) The decision will hinge on the commercial viability of the plant and a successful review by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). The newspaper, local to Hunterston – the Largs and Millport Gazette – reported in September that the plant is likely to continue operating for another decade. The newspaper editorial is hoping that if the existing station operates until 2023 it will give enough time for a pro-nuclear Scottish Government to allow the construction of a new reactor before it closes. (2)

Labour MP for Rutherglen and Hamilton West Tom Greatrex, shadow Energy and Climate Change Minister, has accused the SNP of preparing to perform a U-turn on its nuclear policy – because of its support for the Hunterston life extension. (3) The SNP Westminster Energy spokesperson Mike Weir MP said: "Tom Greatrex's attack is not only rubbish but it has rebounded on Scottish Labour whose position on new nuclear is unknown. Tom Greatrex has thrown down the gauntlet and it has landed on Johann Lamont's desk – this is yet another issue on which the Labour leader needs to make her position known." (4)

Greatrex used a fringe event at the Labour party conference in Manchester to highlight the potential jobs dividend from nuclear power and accused the Scottish Government of letting down skilled workers. (5)



North Ayrshire Labour Councillor Alex Gallagher said *“reports that the SNP is about to do a U-turn and endorse nuclear power make sense ... By giving in to the inevitable and agreeing to extend the active life of Hunterston B station, the Nationalists have shown they have no principled opposition to nuclear power. Scotland needs the electricity that would be generated by a new nuclear power station and North Ayrshire needs the high quality jobs that come with the industry. It's time for Nationalist ministers to swallow their pride and announce that they are in favour of new nuclear in the shape of the long-mooted Hunterston C nuclear power station.”* (6)

The SNP-led North Lanarkshire Council suffered a surprise defeat over the future of nuclear power when Alex Gallagher put forward a motion *“that the council writes to the Scottish Government requesting that the presumption in favour of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) power generation at the Hunterston site be removed, and that a presumption in favour of Nuclear Power Generation at Hunterston (Hunterston C) be inserted into the NPF (National Planning Framework).”* (7)

Councillor Fariha Thomas, Nuclear Free Local Authorities, Scotland Convener responded to Alex Gallagher saying NFLA Scotland is disappointed with the Scottish Government’s energy policy because existing nuclear power stations should be closed much earlier than 2023. There are many exciting ways Scotland can harness various forms of renewable energy, microgeneration and energy efficiency to bring about the sort of radical changes that will benefit the country and bring in thousands of new jobs. She highlighted the use of geothermal energy in Glasgow and reports that as much of 40% of Glasgow's heating requirements could be met through tapping into flooded mines. (8)

1. Bloomberg 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012 <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-05-22/edf-to-decide-on-whether-to-extend-u-k-reactors-lives-by-2013.html>
2. Largs & Millport Gazette 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012 <http://www.largsandmillportnews.com/opinion/blogs/articles/2012/09/05/435024-more-nuclear-future-for-hunterston/> See also Telegraph 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2012 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/9530446/EDF-considers-nuclear-plant-reprieve.html>
3. Herald 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012 <http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/political-news/labour-accuses-snp-of-nuclear-u-turn.18831816>
4. SNP Press Release 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012 <http://www.snp.org/media-centre/news/2012/sep/nuclear-attack-backfires-labour>
5. Herald 1st October 2012 <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/greatrex-slams-snp-for-nuclear-plants-jobs-let-down.19018810>
6. Herald 11th September 2012 <http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/letters/snp-should-back-nuclear-power.18845925>
7. Largs & Millport Gazette 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012 <http://www.largsandmillportnews.com/news/westkilbride/articles/2012/09/28/436596-council-back-nuclear/>



8. Herald 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012 <http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/letters/why-nuclear-power-is-simply-not-the-answer-to-our-future-energy-needs.18850323>

### 3 Scottish Waste Management Policy

The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management published an update report on its scrutiny of the development of implementation strategy for the Scottish Government's Radioactive Waste Management Strategy in October. (1) It was discussed at its last plenary meeting in London.

The Scottish Government is committed to developing an implementation strategy (Higher Activity Waste Implementation Strategy - HAWIS) to enable the policy to be implemented in a consistent manner. To do this it has established a Project Board (PB) and a Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The function of the PB was to provide strategic direction and executive control for developing HAWIS. The function of the TAG was to undertake work defined by the PB and provide technical input. Although SCCORS is represented on the PB, NFLA Scotland is not. CoRWM has raised concerns with the Scottish Government about the way in which HAWIS was developing and whether the management arrangements were appropriate and working.

The Scottish Government's Radioactive Waste Team only had one person working on HAWIS for most of last year up until February 2012. CoRWM says the roles of PB and TAG have become blurred and it was not clear whether HAWIS was producing an actual implementation strategy or just organising the work of others. A reconstituted PB met for the first time on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2012 – again this included SCCORS but not NFLA(S).

The initial views of the PB at this first meeting were that the HAWIS might focus on:

- long term issues for HAW that cannot be disposed of in near-surface facilities
- issues associated with near-surface disposal
- issues associated with public acceptability and retrievability

CoRWM says PB members' organisations and other stakeholders will be consulted to ascertain if they consider that these are the topics that should be addressed.

If this is indeed the direction that the HAWIS is intending to go, this is a worrying development. As noted in the report to the February meeting of NFLA(S) in Paisley, (2) CoRWM continues to imply that Scottish Government Policy is to dispose of the 75% of Scottish HAW which can be disposed in near surface disposal facilities. Around 25% of the waste in question is considered to be unsuitable for near-surface disposal. But the finalised Scottish Government Policy made clear that: "...*Scottish Government Policy at the present time is that long-term **storage is still the primary long-term management option***" (3) (emphasis added)

CoRWM again notes that Scottish Government policy is silent on a final end point for HAW that cannot be disposed of in near-surface facilities. CoRWM says it considers it essential for SG to re-examine the option of geological disposal of Scottish HAW during the ten yearly reviews of the policy. It says the Government will have to decide what it is going to say about Scottish



HAW that is either not suitable, or not destined even if suitable, for near-surface disposal, in a submission to the European Commission due before August 2015.

At the SCCORS meeting in Edinburgh on 19 October, a Scottish Government speaker appeared to imply that the question of deep geological disposal would have to be re-visited eventually. In the meantime the search was on for methods of near surface 'disposal' for Higher Activity Waste. Asked what would happen to the graphite sleeves at Hunterston now that the Energy Solutions near surface dump proposal has collapsed, Bill Hamilton of the NDA said it would go into Hunterston store.

### NDA Strategy

The NDA has published a Strategy Paper on Intermediate Level Waste Storage Solutions in Central and Southern Scotland. The proposals in the paper are consistent with the NDA's Integrated Waste Management (IWM) Strategy which is that centralised and multi-site approaches should be considered where advantageous. (4) The NDA consultation considers a variety of options about moving waste within the Hunterston nuclear reactor facility and considers the potential for movements of waste between other sites, such as Torness and Rosyth. (5)

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) developed a model submission response. This argued against the current way in which the 'waste hierarchy' is used by the NDA, because it leads to the dilution and dispersal of radioactivity rather than its concentration and containment, and called on the NDA to drop altogether, rather than postpone, consideration of the storage of Torness waste at Rosyth, and consideration of transporting Torness waste to the Hunterston store. (6)

1. CoRWM Document No. 3063 <http://corwm.decc.gov.uk/assets/corwm/post-nov%2007%20doc%20store/documents/corwm%20position%20papers/2012/3063-corwm-scrutiny-sghawis-development-oct-12.pdf>
2. See [http://www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk/news/SAFE\\_ENERGY\\_No55.pdf](http://www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk/news/SAFE_ENERGY_No55.pdf)
3. Scotland's Higher Activity Radioactive Waste Policy 2011. (para 2.04.03) <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/01/20114928/2>
4. NDA 22nd August 2012 <http://www.nda.gov.uk/news/ilw-storage-scotland.cfm>
5. NFLA Press Release 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012 [http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/NFLA\\_PR\\_Scottish\\_ILW\\_consultation.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/NFLA_PR_Scottish_ILW_consultation.pdf)
6. Radioactive Waste Management Policy Briefing No.35 Scottish ILW Storage Policy. [http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/radwaste/NFLA\\_RWB\\_35\\_Scottish\\_ILW.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/radwaste/NFLA_RWB_35_Scottish_ILW.pdf)

## 4 Waste Transports

The Atlantic Osprey – a nuclear waste transport ship – has transported the first of 21 shipments of radioactive waste to Belgium from Dounreay. The vessel went to Antwerp from where the intermediate level waste was taken by road to the research reactor, BR2 in Mol. Eventually 153 tonnes of nuclear waste will be shipped to the continent over a four year period. The Belgian



research reactor was one of Dounreay's customers when it carried out research reactor reprocessing in the early 1990s. (1) Independent nuclear consultant Shaun Burnie said the cargo vessel was not designed to carry out the delivery of nuclear waste, describing the ship as a "rustbucket". Any transportation at sea involves hazard but the Atlantic Osprey has had a poor record at sea where it has experienced engine failures, fires and cases of drifting at sea. "Two years ago, the French authorities said that they did not want the ship being used for nuclear transport after delivering a cargo of plutonium." Burnie added: "From an environmental aspect, there isn't a disposal facility in Belgium, although there has been research looking into building a facility at Mol. (2)

### Rail transports Dounreay to Sellafield

The rail transports of so-called breeder fuel from Dounreay to Sellafield don't appear to have started yet, despite rumours that the first one was due in the first week in Scotland. (And the NFLA Policy Advisor did an interview for BBC Scotland in anticipation that the transports would start then).

Bill Hamilton of the NDA was asked at the SCCORS meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October if the trains would have armed guards, given that the breeder materials has a high plutonium content. He said he couldn't divulge that, but material is in top category for security purposes. Hamilton said a test run was made in July, and that the first movement was likely in November. In addition the NDA is still waiting for Government approval to move the exotic fuels which are likely to be moved in 2014/15. The Breeder material will add about 4 months to the life of the controversial Magnox Reprocessing Plant which discharges up to around 132 Terabecquerels of radioactivity into the marine environment compared with less than 2TBq from an operating reactor.

Bill Hamilton explained to councillors at the SCCORS meeting that the NDA didn't consult people living near railway lines between Dounreay and Sellafield because everyone would oppose the transports.

The NDA told the Whitehaven News that a massive community benefits deal is being struck with Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council in compensation for the large volumes of highly radioactive materials being transported to Sellafield from Scotland. This could be worth as much as £16 million but no figures have been confirmed. (3)

1. John O Groat Journal 31st Aug 2012 <http://www.johngroat-journal.co.uk/News/Boat-Belgium-bound-with-Dounreay-nuclear-waste.htm> See also DSRL 4th September 2012 <http://www.dounreay.com/news/2012-09-04/foreign-waste-is-collected-from-dounreay>
2. John O Groat Journal 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012 <http://www.johngroat-journal.co.uk/News/Rustbucket-fears-over-Dounreay-nuclear-cargo-boat-31082012.htm>
3. Whitehaven News 1st November 2012 <http://www.whitehavennews.co.uk/news/millions-on-way-in-new-nuclear-waste-deal-1.1010034?referrerPath=news/>



## 5 Dounreay

Work is expected to start next year on the huge task of removing an estimated 1,500 tonnes of radioactive waste from two underground facilities at Dounreay - a 213ft-deep vertical shaft and a nearby vault set 30ft below the surface. The water-filled shaft was first used to store intermediate level waste in 1957. The silo - a shallow reinforced concrete bunker - was built in 1971 to store nuclear waste. A report published in 1996 revealed that waste contaminated with sodium continued to be buried in the underground silo despite an explosion in 1977 caused by a cocktail of sodium, potassium and water. The 1977 blast demolished seven metres of fencing, damaged asbestos walls, threw five concrete slabs weighing five tonnes each up to two metres away and blew a concrete and steel lid, weighing 12.5 tonnes, several metres into the air. The work is expected to cost £100 million and is due to be completed by 2021. (1)

A former senior official says he has safety fears over the process to remove the highly radioactive waste from the shaft and silo. Herbie Lyall, a former health officer at Dounreay, said: “[The silo] *is in my personal opinion the most dangerous place on the site.*” (2)

### Radioactive Discharges Authorisations

Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd (DSRL) has applied to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) for a new authorisation to dispose of radioactive waste under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993. SEPA has been carrying out a public consultation on the application but only during October and November, closing on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The consultation includes 21 documents. (3)

The current authorisations were granted to the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) in 1999 before it was announced in 2001 that no more fuel reprocessing would be undertaken at Dounreay. The nuclear licensed site is now owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and is being decommissioned on their behalf by DSRL. The authorisations granted to UKAEA were transferred to DSRL on 1 April 2008.

The applied for overall gaseous discharge limits are (with the exception of tritium) lower than those contained in the current authorisation. An increase in the overall discharge limit for tritium has been applied for. With regard to liquid discharges the applied for overall discharge limits are mostly lower than those contained in the current authorisation, with the exception of tritium and Caesium-137. A limit for Americium-241 has also been applied for. SEPA note that both Strontium-90 and Caesium-137 can be abated using ion exchange processes and as part of the determination process, SEPA will obtain further information from DSRL on the planned abatement processes and the basis for the estimated discharges of these radionuclides.

The proposed authorisation will properly reflect the current activities at Dounreay, rather than be based on authorisations issued when reprocessing was expected to continue. This could, however, disguise a plan to increase discharges from the site. For example although the proposal is to reduce the annual limits for strontium-90 liquid discharges from 770,000 million Bq/yr down to 274,000 million Bq/yr, actual discharges are expected to increase from an average over the past five years of 34,460 million Bq/yr to 166,000 million Bq/yr.





Similarly discharges of Krypton-85 into the atmosphere were 2.14 million Bq/yr in 2011. But although the authorised limit applied for has gone down, the predicted annual discharge is given as 576 million million Bq/yr (576 trillion Bq/yr) – a dramatic increase by any measure.

SEPA is also proposing to radically reduce local beach monitoring, including at Sandside. It appears much too early to properly assess the effect of the seabed particle recovery work to reduce monitoring from monthly to quarterly at this time.

1. Scotsman 19th Sept 2012 <http://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/europe-s-deepest-nuclear-clean-up-to-take-place-at-dounreay-in-caithness-1-2533881> For more detail see [http://www.dounreay.com/UserFiles/File/Dounreay%20News/October\\_2012.pdf](http://www.dounreay.com/UserFiles/File/Dounreay%20News/October_2012.pdf) and Engineer Live 21 November 2012 [http://www.engineerlive.com/Power-Engineer/Nuclear\\_Power/Tackling\\_one\\_of\\_the\\_most\\_challenging\\_nuclear\\_clean-up\\_projects/24628/](http://www.engineerlive.com/Power-Engineer/Nuclear_Power/Tackling_one_of_the_most_challenging_nuclear_clean-up_projects/24628/)
2. STV 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012 <http://news.stv.tv/highlands-islands/201903-work-to-start-next-year-on-volatile-areas-of-dounreay-nuclear-plant/>
3. The main consultation document can be found here: [http://www.sepa.org.uk/about\\_us/idoc.ashx?docid=15d4f6f8-57d3-4bbd-8de2-166edd8555c7&version=-1](http://www.sepa.org.uk/about_us/idoc.ashx?docid=15d4f6f8-57d3-4bbd-8de2-166edd8555c7&version=-1)

## 6 Torness

Radioactive waste has gone astray at Torness. EDF Energy wrongly sent 28 oil drums containing 26 litres of radioactive residue to be recycled at a waste plant in Cumbria. When this was discovered in April the waste was sent back to Torness, where it is still awaiting disposal. According to SEPA, EDF Energy was not authorised to dispose of such radioactive "sludges" at a low-level waste repository.

Sunday Herald 30 Sept 2012 <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/environment/nuclear-safety-breach-as-radioactive-waste-is-sent-to-recycling-plant.19014782>

## 7 Dalgety Bay

Radiation levels at a Scottish beach pose no serious public health threat and should not stop anyone visiting the area, according to the Health Protection Agency. However HPA did say although the risks to public health are low, momentum must be maintained to resolve the problems at Dalgety Bay, and every effort needs to be made to work towards a timely agreement on the long term management strategy. (1)

Meanwhile, the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (Comare) has discovered a near-doubling in the incidence of cancers among people living near Dalgety Bay. COMARE found a marked increase in liver and blood cancers close to the site of the contamination. The scientists have recommended an investigation into potential links between the radioactive site and cancer levels. The report pointed out that liver cancers were concentrated in communities near the polluted foreshore. This "reinforces the suspicion" they were linked to the discarded radium that has littered the area for decades. (2)



1. Scotsman 30th Oct 2012 <http://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/no-serious-risk-to-public-health-from-dalgety-bay-beach-radiation-1-2604202>
2. Sunday Herald 11th Nov 2012 <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/environment/expert-report-cancer-levels-twice-as-high-near-toxic-dalgety-bay-beach.19385880>
3. The expert report revealing a near-doubling of cancers around Dalgety Bay can be downloaded here: <http://www.robedwards.com/2012/11/revealed-the-cancers-that-could-be-linked-to-radioactive-contamination.html>

## 8 Renewable Shorts

- Fife could follow Glasgow and use flood water pumped from long-abandoned coal mines to heat buildings according to the British Geological Survey (BGS). (1)
- Planning consent has been granted for a 36-turbine wind farm less than a mile west of Stornoway, on Lewis. Lewis Wind Power - a joint venture involving Amec, EDF Energy and the Stornoway Trust - had originally wanted to install 42 turbines. But it reduced the scale of its plans following concerns about the impact on species like the golden eagle. Fears had also been voiced about the effect on the Lewis Peatlands Special Protection Area. RSPB Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) withdrew their objections after the number of turbines was reduced. The Western Isles' local authority, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, has welcomed Mr Ewing's decision. (2)
- THE UK's best and most cost effective wave power "hot spots" sites are situated around 100 kilometres off the west coast of Scotland. Capturing resources from Atlantic swells at these areas could cut wave power costs by 50 per cent, a report commissioned by the Carbon Trust said. Researchers believe sites located off Scotland's west coast (Lewis and Uist), Shetland and Orkney are the most economical areas in the UK. The second most viable area is off the coast of Cornwall. The UK Wave Energy Report said the annual production at these sites would be the equivalent of the amount of electricity used in a year in Scotland. (3)
- Plans to revive the use of the hydroelectric power station at the Harlaw Reservoir dam for the benefit of the local community harnessing the power of the Water of Leith have moved a significant step further after city planners backed the proposals. The defunct structure was once part of a network which powered mills across the region, and residents from a Balerno community group are now bidding to return the device to its previous use. (4)
- The Base Glasgow event which focuses on Glasgow's transformation to a low-carbon economy and is closely aligned to the Sustainable Glasgow initiative under which Glasgow aims to reduce its carbon emissions by 30% within 10 years, recently welcomed Ken Livingstone as a speaker. He is widely credited with establishing London as a world leader in low carbon thinking and strategy. Glasgow is renewing its built environment for the Commonwealth Games in 2014. Ken's message is clear: Glasgow needs to seize the green initiative to make the city competitive, and his ideas even include the implementation of a fully electric bus fleet. Base Glasgow 2012 brought together a high number of key players in the public and private sectors to discuss how to "future-proof" the city by both reducing



carbon emissions and boosting Glasgow's economy in the process. Glasgow City Council leader Gordon Matheson also discussed the city's bid for European Green Capital status in 2015. (5)

- One of Europe's largest offshore wind energy companies has confirmed it will locate its UK turbine manufacturing site in Scotland. French nuclear builder, Areva has signed an agreement with Scottish Enterprise. The deal could create up to 750 jobs from manufacturing and the supporting supply chain. Areva describes itself as a "global leader in nuclear energy and a major player in renewable energies". (6) Korea's Samsung plans a wind project in Fife, while Spain's Gamesa chose Leith for a blades and generators plant, and Japan's Mitsubishi plans to develop generators in Edinburgh. Whilst none of the projects are yet finalised and industry figures say the UK will miss out on its chance to develop the supply chain unless it finalises policies quickly, it is clear the UK offshore wind industry is "*on the threshold of delivering thousands of manufacturing jobs at a time when the country needs them most*" if it gets the right support from the Scottish and UK Governments. (7)

1. Dundee Courier (Not Online) 20th Sept 2012
2. BBC 7th Sept 2012 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-19520103>
3. Guardian 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/oct/17/cornwall-scotland-uk-wave-power>
4. Edinburgh Evening News 22nd Oct 2012 <http://www.scotsman.com/edinburgh-evening-news/latest-news/planners-back-community-bid-to-revive-water-of-leith-power-station-1-2591908>
5. Scotsman 13th November 2012 <http://www.scotsman.com/news/andrew-dowding-ken-livingstone-can-help-make-glasgow-greener-says-andrew-dowding-1-2629560>
6. BBC 19th November 2012 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-20390785>
7. Telegraph 19th November 2012 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/9689022/Areva-plans-750-jobs-with-Scottish-wind-turbine-factory.html>