

DE&S Policy Secretariat - Submarines

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Mr Fred Dawson

Our Reference: 04-05-2012-151549-008 04-05-2012-150455-006

Date:

1 August 2012

Dear Mr Dawson,

<u>Request for Information – Release of Information under the Environmental Information</u> <u>Regulations (EIR) 2004</u>

Further to my letter of 4 July 2012, I am writing to provide you with a substantive response to your request in which you ask for the following information:

- Could you please provide me with Information about sites where radioactive waste for the nuclear propulsion programme has been disposed by sea dumping.
- Could you also tell me the volumes, activity and radionuclides disposed of at the above sites.
- Information about the sites where radioactive waste for the naval nuclear propulsion has been disposed of by burial in the UK and overseas excluding Drigg/Sellafield
- Could you also tell me the volumes, activity and radionuclides buried at the above sites
- And where required letter of agreement or authorisations from the EA or its predecessors.

I can confirm that we hold information within the scope of your request. The information we hold states that radioactive waste from the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme has been disposed of at sea, at Hurd Deep and Atlantic Deep, and by burial at the following sites: the former Royal Dockyard Chatham; Hilts Quarry, Derby; and at Rosyth, Fife. Annex A and the enclosed documents provide the further information that we hold that relates to your request.

As you are aware, there are provisions under EIR in which certain data is exempt from release. It has been judged that some of the information relevant to your request falls within the scope of the exception under Regulation 13(1) (Personal Data); as a result, the names of certain individuals have been withheld, so the enclosed documents have been redacted accordingly.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal

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resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Head of Corporate Information, 2nd Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, http://www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

DE&S Policy Secretariat – Submarines

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION HELD

CHATHAM

The total volume of the disposal site at Chatham has been estimated as 9,000 cubic metres.

The total of the activity of the material buried from 1969 to 1986 was approx 750Gbq at the time of burial; **Enclosure 1** gives the modelled activity to 2012 based on Co-60

Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLW) was buried on the site in accordance with the authorisation from the Department Of Environment. Documents relating to this authorisation are at **Enclosure 2**.

HILTS QUARRY, DERBY

LLW from Rolls-Royce at Raynesway, Derby was disposed to Hilts Quarry in Crich, Derby.

Disposal was authorised by the Environment Agency, but ceased in 2002. Regeneration and restoration of the quarry is now complete and the site is no longer regulated under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993.

A copy of the authorisation is at **Enclosure 3**.

ROSYTH

The Very Low Level Radioactive Waste (VLLW) pit is located on the Rosyth Dockyard site. The volume of the disposal pit is approximately 942 cubic metres.

A total activity is estimated to have been approximately 33 GBq of Co-60 deposited between September 1968 and March 1979. By October 2003 approximately 9.3 GBq of Co-60 was estimated to remain. Upon closure the pits were covered with soil with a concrete cap laid on top and a further quantity of soil.

Copies of authorisations are at **Enclosure 4**.

SEA DISPOSAL

Authorisation was granted to the Atomic Energy Authority (AEA – now the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA)) to dispose of radioactive waste at sea after World War Two. Disposal took place at two sites, between 1946 and 1973: Hurd Deep and Atlantic Deep. There is evidence that some radioactive waste was also disposed of at Beaufort's Dyke, but we are not aware of it being used to dispose of waste from the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme.

Further details are available from the MOD web site at this location: http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/HealthandSafetyPublications/DSEA/DisposalOfMunitionsAtSea.htm

Specific quantities for the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme are not held. Wastes disposed of at Hurd Deep and Atlantic Deep were identified as 'MOD wastes' and cannot be broken down to individual programmes. Total quantities can be found via the link above.

We do not hold information about the AEA authorisations. You may wish to note that there is no legal requirement on the MOD to hold such information beyond 30 years from the time of disposal.