



PE1522/E

Public Petitions Clerks
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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SSE
Inveralmond House
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30 June 2014
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Dear Mr Sharratt

Scottish Parliament public petition PE1522 on improving bulk fuel storage safety

I refer to your letter of 22 May regarding the above petition.

The petition is: ***'Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review the current statutory provisions applying to bulk fuel storage sites to ensure the same level of secondary containment is in place irrespective of the reason for the fuel being stored'***.

It is SSE's understanding that the petitioner is calling for all bulk storage fuel sites to be covered by the Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, regardless of whether the fuel stored is for use on site or for onward distribution. Whilst there certainly appears to be merit in ensuring the appropriate environmental safeguards are in place for all bulk fuel storage, SSE is unable to offer a qualified opinion on this and would instead suggest this is a matter for the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency and the Scottish Government to consider.

Both the petition and the transcript from the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee meeting on 20 May make reference to two SSE sites at which fuel is stored; SSE's Kirkwall Power Station and SSE's South Uist (Loch Carnan) Power Station.

As the petitioner correctly states, the fuel stored at SSE's Power Station in Kirkwall already falls under the Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 as the fuel stored is for use on site and I can confirm that



the tanks already have in place the necessary modern bunding arrangements, in compliance with the regulations.

The petitioner uses SSE's Kirkwall power station as a direct comparison with the Shore Street Kirkwall fuel distribution depot. Whilst SSE has no first hand knowledge of the Shore Street Kirkwall fuel distribution depot, SSE understands that the depot is not currently covered by the regulations as the fuel is stored for onward distribution. This appears to be the crux of the petitioner's complaint.

SSE's South Uist (Loch Carnan) Power Station also falls under the Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and the petitioner has referenced a fuel leak that occurred at the power station back in 2008. Following the incident I can confirm that SSE immediately inspected and upgraded the tanks and bunds, in compliance with the regulations.

Since the upgrade two of the three fuel storage tanks have been inspected, tested and returned to service and SSE expects to complete the inspection and testing of the third tank within the next few months. I hope this helps demonstrate that SSE has taken the necessary steps to help prevent any future fuel leaks at the site.

I hope the information provided is of assistance. If you have any further questions regarding this, or if there is anything else SSE can help with, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Greg Clarke
Public Affairs Manager (Scotland)