



Summary Report to the WCSSG Scrutiny Meeting April 2009

Environmental Health Sub Committee

Key Items Discussed

- Report from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Radioactivity in Food and the Environment – RIFE – 2007)
- Monitoring Our Environment, Discharges and Monitoring in the UK 2007 (Sellafield Ltd)

Issues/ findings

- Sellafield radioactivity makes a small contribution to annual radiation doses received by members of the public.
- Sellafield discharges are very small compared with 30 years ago; as a result historic radioactivity dominates current radiation dose estimates.
- Remobilisation of old sediments occasionally contributes to increased estimates of radiation dose but the general trend appears to be one of slow decline.
- The highest doses reported were for a local group of very high consumers of seafood (100 kilograms per year). It is estimated that they received a dose of about 0.24 millisieverts from Sellafield radioactivity in seafood (0.01 millisieverts higher than estimated for 2006).
- Dose estimates can be compared with 2.2mSv average UK natural background dose from natural sources of radiation.

Actions Required

- To raise the issue of timely publication of the RIFE report.
- To seek COMARE's advice (Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment) on a recent study of childhood cancer near nuclear power stations in Germany.