



# Tackling unacceptable impacts of flaring at Mossmorran

**The Mossmorran Complex in Fife is regulated by a number of organisations including the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Fife Council and the Health and Safety Executive. SEPA is also working closely with NHS Fife and Health Protection Scotland regarding community concerns around the impacts of flaring from the site.**

**The improvements required by SEPA at Mossmorran are about better protecting local communities. We expect the investments announced recently will reduce the need to flare and address the unacceptable impacts of flaring when this is necessary.**



## MONITORING

SEPA continues to monitor air quality around Mossmorran. A number of reports have been published on our Mossmorran Hub and the results from these consistently show that levels of particulate matter are well within daily (UK) Air Quality Standards.

Currently, SEPA has air quality monitoring equipment at Lochgelly, Auchertool and Donibristle. These locations ensure that we can monitor in local communities and take account of changes in wind direction. It also means we can monitor both upwind and downwind of the Mossmorran Complex.

We are planning for these monitors to stay in place whilst the investments are made at Mossmorran. SEPA is also working alongside partner agencies with air quality responsibilities to assess future requirements.

We have also published the results of our three month air monitoring survey carried out between January and April this year. Both the full technical report and a summary document are available on the Mossmorran Hub.

Noise monitoring has also been carried out by SEPA in response to unplanned flaring. The data from this monitoring is associated with our Regulatory Investigations and cannot be published at this time.

If you do not have access to the internet and would like copies of our Air Quality Summary Reports, please contact 03000 99 66 99.

**SEPA is ensuring that local communities are being put first.**



## OPERATING PERMIT VARIATIONS

We have served the first in a series of permit variations to lock in compliance at Mossmorran and reduce flaring impacts.

The operating permit variations served on ExxonMobil Chemical Limited and Shell U.K. Limited have required both operators to achieve 'Best Available Techniques' at Mossmorran in the shortest timeframe possible.

The variations will lead to investments in equipment that reduces the impacts of flaring on local communities when it is necessary. Flaring, an important safety feature of industrial facilities, will become the "exception rather than routine" and new infrastructure will address the issues that cause most disturbance to local people.

## NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

Noise reducing flare tips are to be installed by the operators within the following timescales:

- ExxonMobil Chemical Limited in 2020
- Shell U.K. Limited in 2021

ExxonMobil Chemical Limited has committed to optimising timescales to install new ground flares - which will significantly address impacts from flaring. The operator has until

the end of October to come forward with the "shortest period possible to plan, design, build and safely integrate" new ground flare technology. The company has also announced a £140 million investment and SEPA expects this to better protect local communities from the impacts of flaring in future.

Shell U.K. Limited must provide SEPA with a project plan by the end of January 2020 for their future use of ground flares. SEPA's current view is that these should be new and of a totally enclosed design to be considered to be the 'Best Available Techniques'.

## REGULATORY INVESTIGATION

Our ongoing regulatory investigation involving specialist technical, regulatory and enforcement officers will conclude by the end of November, subject to no new lines of enquiry being uncovered.

We will also be investigating the unplanned flaring from August 2019.

SEPA's been on site engaging directly with those operating the plant, and had strategic board room level meetings. Terry A'Hearn, SEPA's Chief Executive, is leading our regulation of the site.



**“Compliance with Scotland’s environmental rules is simply non-negotiable. We told the operators that SEPA and local communities wanted faster progress and outlined the steps we would take to make this happen. People rightly expect that their lives won’t be impacted by nearby industrial processes. We want and expect ExxonMobil Chemicals and Shell to move faster. In addition to requiring both companies to install noise reducing flare tips, we now expect firm proposals to be brought forward to explain how new ground flare capacity will be planned, designed, built and safely integrated in the shortest period possible.”**

SEPA’s Head of Environmental Performance, Chris Dailly

#### MORE INFORMATION

**[www.sepa.org.uk/Mossmorran](http://www.sepa.org.uk/Mossmorran)**

This dedicated online hub is where we share the latest information about the Mossmorran complex, including notifications from the operators, updates of our investigations and FAQs. There are also quick links to report pollution and sign up to a Mossmorran newsletter.

#### 24 HOUR POLLUTION REPORTING

Submit a report to us online at **[www.sepa.org.uk/report](http://www.sepa.org.uk/report)**

or call us on **0800 80 70 60**

where operators will answer calls as quickly as possible

For information on accessing this document in an alternative format or language please email **[equalities@sepa.org.uk](mailto:equalities@sepa.org.uk)** or contact us on **03000 99 66 99**. If you are a user of British Sign Language (BSL) the Contact Scotland BSL service **[contactscotland-bsl.org](http://contactscotland-bsl.org)** gives you access to an online interpreter enabling you to communicate with us using sign language.