



**HM NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE**  
**Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE)**  
**Dounreay**

**SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPORTS**  
**QUARTERLY REPORT**  
**for**  
**1 October to 31 December 2008**

**FOREWORD**

This report is issued as part of the Health and Safety Executive's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. It is for distribution to members of the Dounreay Stakeholders Group (DSG) and covers activities associated with the regulation of nuclear safety at the Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE). These reports are distributed quarterly and are also available on HSE's web site at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/llc/index.htm>

Site Inspectors of HM Nuclear Installations Inspectorate usually attend DSG meetings and will respond to questions raised there or subsequently by members of the DSG. Any other person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact the HSE's Nuclear Directorate Information Centre on 0151-951-3484/3290.

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**INSPECTIONS**

The majority of sites inspected by HM Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) a part of the Health and Safety Executive are licensed by HSE/NII under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (as amended). Vulcan NRTE is not a licensed site although it operates under Authorisation from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR). The site is adjacent to the Dounreay Licenced Site and is regulated by HSE/NII through other legislation as noted below. This report summarises the inspection and regulatory activities associated with Vulcan NRTE which are coordinated with inspections by DNSR. The focus for Vulcan NRTE is safe and timely testing of submarine reactor performance to enable continued safe operation of the UK's nuclear submarine fleet. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate's Site Inspector visited the site during the quarter on the following dates:

18 to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

A HSE/NII Radiation Specialist Inspector also visited the site on these dates.

## **ROUTINE MATTERS**

With limited resources, HSE-NII necessarily employs a sampling regime in its regulation of sites that is proportionate to the risks, and which is targeted primarily on those activities with the highest risks or where the hazards are least well controlled.

Inspections on site are undertaken as part of monitoring compliance with:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc Act (HSWA) 1974, and
- Regulations made under the HSWA for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99), the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 (REPPPIR) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSW99).

This entails monitoring operator's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters which may affect safety. The operators are required to make and implement adequate arrangements in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period all inspections of Vulcan NRTE were undertaken jointly with DNSR and covered:

- Emergency arrangements under REPPPIR
- Control of radiation exposure under IRR99
- Improvements in safety culture
- Incident reporting

The Site Inspector also met with the Site Safety Representatives.

HSE/NII's Radiation Specialist Inspector, together with DNSR, inspected a small-scale emergency exercise intended to demonstrate the performance and procedures of the Emergency Radiological Incident Centre (ERIC). This service is provided by the adjacent Dounreay Site Restoration Limited (DSRL) site and was not considered to be adequately demonstrated during the Lonestar 08 exercise in June 2008. On this occasion, the ERIC procedures were followed and performance was considered to be satisfactory.

A joint inspection was carried out with DNSR to look at the safety culture improvement programme ("First Thoughts") that the site is implementing. Improving safety culture is a long term process and the site recognises that momentum needs to be maintained. However, it was pleasing to note that practical improvements are already evident.

A joint inspection was carried out with DNSR to look at the site's incident reporting systems and trending of events and incidents. We saw evidence that these systems were in place and being used appropriately, including provision of feedback to those who raise Safety Improvement Reports. There was good emphasis on the closure of actions raised from events and incidents and very few remained open.

## **NON-ROUTINE MATTERS**

Operators are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. HSE/NII Inspectors judge the adequacy of the operator's response including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

There are no items of particular note during the current reporting period.

## **REGULATORY ACTIVITY**

Under Health and Safety legislation HSE/NII Site Inspectors, and other HSE Inspectors, may issue enforcement (Crown) notices to secure improvements to safety.

No enforcement (Crown) notices were issued during the quarter