

# VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT

## DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT

01 October to 31 December 2008

### FOREWORD

This report is issued as part of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to defence nuclear programmes available to the workforce and the public. The Secretary of State for Defence is answerable to Parliament for the safety of all defence activities; he has issued a Policy Statement requiring the Ministry of Defence to comply with legislation, and where there are exemptions relating to defence activities, to make, so far as is practicable, arrangements at least as good as those required by legislation. The Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator is empowered to regulate nuclear and radiological safety in the naval nuclear propulsion programme and the nuclear weapons programme. This is achieved in a manner that complements and joins up with the work of statutory regulators.

Vulcan NRTE is an authorised site under MoD regulation; authorisation is a process akin to licensing under the Nuclear Installations Act. Statutory regulators have roles under general health, safety and environmental legislation, and DNSR Inspectors work closely with them; this report should be read in conjunction with theirs. The report is made available on the MoD website ([www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk)) and the MoD intranet and is provided to members of the Local Liaison Committee. Where possible, a DNSR Inspector will attend Liaison Committee meetings and will respond to any questions raised. Additionally, DNSR Inspectors may be contacted at their offices at Abbey Wood, Bristol (0117 91 35026).

### PERIOD OF THIS REPORT

1. This report covers the quarterly reporting period from 01 Oct to 31 Dec 08.

### ROUTINE MATTERS

2. Routine visits to the site are made for the purpose of undertaking pre-planned examinations of the adequacy of safety management, examinations of Authorisation Condition compliance or compliance with other regulations or attending formal meetings with site management or their representatives.
3. A routine visit was made to Vulcan NRTE (by DNSR and the NII) on 18, 19 and 20 Nov 08.
4. The following areas were inspected during this visit:
  - a. Incident Reporting and Safety Culture. The primary purpose of the visit was to inspect the arrangements associated with Incident Reporting and Safety Culture. The inspection was conducted jointly with the NII and the opportunity was also taken to follow up issues arising from previous inspections. No significant issues emerged and DNSR and NII were encouraged that the behavioural safety programme is beginning to yield sound practical results.

5. On 20 Nov 08, DNSR and NII jointly assessed a small-scale, dedicated test of the Dounreay Site Restoration Limited Emergency Radiological Incident Centre (ERIC) arrangements (which support the Vulcan NRTE Authorisee) and procedures. The agreed objectives were demonstrated and the response was in accordance with the documented ERIC procedures and very largely resolved the concerns raised following Exercise Lonestar 08 (held on 18 Jun 08).

#### **NON-ROUTINE MATTERS**

6. Non-routine matters may be incidents or situations revealed during routine inspections or visits; they may require special action by DNSR. There have been no non-routine matters during this reporting period.

#### ***Signed On Original***

DNSR IOR-a  
08 Jan 09

Distribution:

NSV, Cdr N Canty RN\*  
NSVPA, Mrs T Ross (fao Dounreay Stakeholder Group)\*  
NII, Mr I Bramwell\*  
SEPA, Mr H Fearn\*  
RSD, Mr J Shield\*  
File DNSR 1/10