

VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT

DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT

01 April to 30 June 2009

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) 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 Apr to 30 Jun 09.

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. Routine visits were made to Vulcan NRTE by DNSR on the following days:
 - a. 29 Apr 09.
 - b. 12, 13 and 14 May 09.
 - c. 16, 17 and 18 Jun 09.
4. The following areas were inspected during this period:
 - a. DNSR Head Annual Visit. The DNSR Head used his Annual Review to tour the site and discuss pertinent topical issues with key personnel. These issues included future options for the site, safety case management, and individual facility briefings. Overall he was content with all that was presented.

b. Control and Supervision of Operations. The primary purpose of the visit was to inspect the arrangements associated with Control and Supervision of Operations. Since the definition of operations covers a wide range of activities at Vulcan NRTE, this inspection focussed on aspects related to operation of the naval reactor plant. In summary, DNSR has no concerns with the management and organisation associated with the operation of the nuclear steam raising plant and is content with the training arrangements, forward planning, and the good use that is made of the simulator. No findings or observations were raised during the inspection.

c. Demonstration of Nuclear Accident Response Onsite Plan. An assessment of the nuclear accident response arrangements was conducted by DNSR in accordance with the Ministry of Defence policy. The assessment covered an exercise of the emergency arrangements for responding to a nuclear reactor accident at Vulcan NRTE. DNSR and NII jointly assessed the Grade C exercise and overall the exercise provided an appropriate vehicle for demonstrating the emergency response arrangements with all of the agreed objectives being effectively demonstrated. The performance showed the Operator's ability to cope in such circumstances.

NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

5. 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
17 Jul 09

Distribution:

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