



HM NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE

Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE)

Dounreay

**SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPORTS
QUARTERLY REPORT**

for

1 July to 30 September 2009

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/ilc/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 Site Inspector made inspection visits to the sites on the following dates during the quarter: -

16 September 2009.

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 are taken as part of monitoring compliance with:

- (i) The Health and Safety at Work etc Act (HSWA) 1974 and
- (ii) 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)

In this period, inspections of Vulcan NRTE covered:

- a. Emergency arrangements under REPPPIR
- b. Control of radiation exposure under IRR99

The Site Inspector held discussions with the site regarding their submission of a revised Hazard Identification and Risk Evaluation under REPPPIR covering operations on the Vulcan NRTE site. The Site Inspector also attended the Dounreay Stakeholder Group to inform the Group of the submission, which proposes reducing the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) around the site from 2km to 1.15km. This submission is currently being assessed, following which NII is required by REPPPIR to make a determination of the appropriate size of DEPZ. This determination is expected to be issued towards the end of 2009.

The Site Inspector also discussed proposals regarding radiography of large components on the site. No concerns arose from these discussions.

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

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE STATUS OF HSE'S NUCLEAR DIRECTORATE

Government has decided to restructure HSE's Nuclear Directorate (ND) to improve further its organisational framework for the sustained delivery of robust, effective and efficient nuclear regulation in the UK. This will place the ND in a better position to meet the anticipated future challenges.

Several factors have come together to make now the right time to restructure ND and create a new independent Nuclear Statutory Corporation (NSC) under the auspices of HSE. These include changing requirements of ageing nuclear power reactors; on-going decommissioning and active management of legacy nuclear plants; assessment of potential new nuclear power stations; growing competitiveness in the global nuclear skills market and the need for improved regulation driven by increased expectation from society for better accountability, transparency and efficiency from public sector bodies.

In addition to this was the government-initiated exercise conducted by Dr Tim Stone which examined the UK's nuclear safety regulatory regime and identified a number of recommendations for improvement, including the need for structural changes to ND. The Summary Recommendations and the Government's response were published at the end of January 2009 (available on HSE's website).

HSE is working on the legislative measure that needs to be in place to create the NSC. These changes will be made through a Legislative Reform Order (LRO) under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006.

Informing this, a joint consultation exercise was carried out by DECC and DWP that sought views on the proposed changes. The 12-week consultation period ended on 22 September 2009 and submissions are currently being assessed.

These new arrangements will not change the substance and substance of (regulation) Tj-22.28 -1.

The reforms would be expected to offer clear and direct benefits to industry and workers as well as society as a whole, which would benefit from efficient and continued robust and effective regulation of nuclear hazards.

Subject to the outcome of the consultation and Parliamentary approval, and if the Parliamentary timetable permits, the aim is to bring the new body into being during 2010.

An internal change programme is currently operating within ND to ensure that the ND is ready to operate when permitted by Parliamentary approval as a statutory corporation from spring 2010. This programme has identified key areas of action and deliverables, which will sit alongside the current business improvement programme and will ensure that operational business improvements are delivered alongside the set up of the new corporation.

It is important to recognise that this programme does not in anyway compromise the current business activity that is delivered through ND and strives to improve operational effectiveness and stakeholder engagement.