



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.

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 co-ordinated 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 site on the following dates during the quarter: -

1st to 3rd December 2009.

In addition, meetings to discuss the site's emergency arrangements were attended in Inverness on 4th December.

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. Radioactive waste management

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. Further information is awaited before the assessment of the submission can be completed and the determination of the appropriate size of Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) can be made. This determination is now expected to be issued towards the end of the first quarter of 2010.

An inspection was carried out with DNSR of the site's arrangements for dealing with nuclear matter and for radioactive waste management. The inspection covered:

- The management arrangements and strategy in place for the control of nuclear matter on site, including managing its accumulation, treatment, storage and disposal.

- The origin of the nuclear matter, its characterisation, and the strategy for its management, including waste minimisation, risk reduction and environmental impact awareness.
- Arrangements for the storage, inspection and monitoring of nuclear matter, and maintenance of plant and equipment used for these purposes.
- Responsibilities and training of all personnel involved in waste management and handling.
- Record keeping and reporting arrangements.
- Compliance with statutory requirements, including IRR 99, Radioactive Substances Act 1993, and other regulatory requirements.

Overall, the inspection team were satisfied that adequate arrangements are in place in relation to the above matters. The inspection team was impressed with the work undertaken by the site in identifying, accounting and disposing of nuclear matter no longer required. There was also evidence of various instances of good practice in terms of waste minimisation. However, the inspection team asked that the site consider whether it is necessary, given the exposure to radioactivity that those carrying out the task will receive, to carry out monthly musters of nuclear matter in the stores. We also considered that the process for procuring radiography sources could be strengthened.

The Site Inspector attended a scoping meeting for the forthcoming emergency demonstration exercise Lonestar 2010, which is also the triennial demonstration of the off-site emergency response. The Dounreay Vulcan Emergency Planning Group was also attended.

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.

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