



**HM NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE**

**Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE)**

**Dounreay**

**SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPORTS  
QUARTERLY REPORT**

**for**

**1 January to 31 March 2010**

**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 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: -

10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

In addition, two NII Radiation Protection Specialist Inspectors visited the site from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

## **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. Radiological Protection
- b. Emergency arrangements under REPPPIR

A specialist team of radiation protection specialist inspectors from NII and DNSR carried out an inspection of the site's arrangements for the management of radiation protection and compliance with the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99). This gave a good overview of the arrangements for controlling radiation and protecting the workforce. It also gave a good understanding and confidence in the interface between the MoD and Roll Royce organisations with respect to radiation protection, co-operation between employers being one of the requirements of the Regulations. The team considered that the arrangements in place were generally adequate to satisfy the requirements of IRR99 and some areas of good practice were identified. In particular, the efforts that have been made over recent months to reduce the holdings of radioactive materials are to be applauded. However, some areas for improvement were identified. In particular, the training provided in support

of Regulation 14 should be reviewed and the lack of a protocol regarding the assessment of the potential for contamination on the internal surfaces of items to be removed from a Controlled Area should be remedied. The inspection findings will be followed-up on future site visits.

The Site Inspector held discussions with the site regarding proposals to amend the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) around the site. It is apparent that effort required to provide the further information we require may be disproportionate to the benefit given the extent of planned operations at Vulcan NRTE. The site are to consider whether to pursue the proposal. In the interim, the DEPZ remains the same.

### **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

### **FORMATION OF THE OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION – AN UPDATE**

Given the proximity to a general election, Ministers decided not to lay the Legislation (known as The LRO) required to establish the Office for Nuclear Regulation, in this Parliamentary session. This decision was made to ensure that full and effective parliamentary scrutiny can take place.

Government recently published for information the legislative documents and the results of the consultation undertaken by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department of Energy and Climate Change in Summer 2009. The consultation showed broad support from a wide range of organisations. The documents can be accessed at:

- [http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what\\_we\\_do/uk\\_supply/energy\\_mix/nuclear/new/reg\\_reform/reg\\_reform.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/nuclear/new/reg_reform/reg_reform.aspx)<sup>[1]</sup>
- [http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn10\\_048/pn10\\_048.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn10_048/pn10_048.aspx)<sup>[2]</sup>

The Transition Programme (the work to establish the new organisation) is largely complete and will be placed 'on hold' until the point at which the LRO is approved.

The planning assumption for vesting date of the new organisation is now taken as 1 April 2011 subject to the LRO passing through the parliamentary process. The next steps and revised timetable relating to the LRO will in due course be further developed. In the meantime, the work to transform ND into the world leading nuclear regulator fit for future challenges, that we aspire to be, continues with the same drive and determination.