



HM NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE

Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE)

Dounreay

**SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPORTS
QUARTERLY REPORT
for
1 April to 30 June 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: -

22nd and 23rd June 2010.

He was accompanied on this visit by the NII's Superintending Inspector for Naval Nuclear Propulsion Plant regulation, a Radiation Protection Specialist Inspector, the Devonport Nominated Site Inspector and NII's Emergency Arrangements Team Leader.

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

A joint team from the NII and DNSR assessed the demonstration emergency exercise Lonestar 2010 on 23rd June 2010. This was both the annual demonstration of the site's emergency arrangements under Authorisation Condition 11 and part of the triennial demonstration of the local authority's off-site plan as required REPPPIR. The exercise was a strong demonstration of the site's capabilities to respond to a nuclear emergency at Vulcan NRTE. There was good command and control demonstrated at all levels during the response, clear MoD control and strong evidence of lessons being learned from previous demonstration exercises. The scenario was suitably challenging and benefitted from being played in closer to real time than has been the case in the past. This allowed responders time to become properly organised, to plan, prepare and then deliver interventions. There was a

deviation from the planned running of the exercise when the reported doses or dose-rates were higher than anticipated but this allowed demonstration of strong, and correct, decision-making processes in not allowing an intervention to proceed.

The Dounreay Emergency Control Centre (DECC) showed strong tactical control and good integration of the MoD and DSRL support staff. The DECC coped well with pressures applied by both the developing scenario and the demands of the simulated Strategic Co-ordinating Centre. In the VECC, there was good command and control, good separation of the Site Controller team and Technical Cell and clear evidence that it was implementing the intentions of the MoD Incident Commander in the DECC. The preparation and briefing of intervention teams was much better than previously demonstrated.

Overall, MoD and Roll Royce staff are to be congratulated on a strong demonstration of their preparedness to cope with the unlikely event of a radiation accident on the Vulcan NRTE site. As agreed with NII and DNSR before the exercise, the full demonstration of the strategic aspects of the off-site plan, which are common with those for the Dounreay site, will take place as part of the Dounreay exercise in September.

The Site Inspector held discussions with the site regarding proposals to amend the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) around the site. It has been decided that the workload required to provide the further information we require is disproportionate to the benefit given the extent of planned operations at Vulcan NRTE. Accordingly, a "no change" submission has been received from the site and the DEPZ will remain unchanged. Highland Council, who are responsible for the off-site emergency plan for the Vulcan NRTE site have been informed.

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 HSE's Nuclear Directorate

At the current time the decision to separate the HSE's Nuclear Directorate into a new organisation is with ministers for consideration. We will report on any progress made with this item in future reports accordingly.