

VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT

DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT

01 April to 30 June 2010

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 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 (030679 37564).

PERIOD OF THIS REPORT

1. This report covers the quarterly reporting period from 01 Apr to 30 Jun 10.

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 dates:
 - a. 13 – 14 Apr 10.
 - b. 25 – 27 May 10.
 - c. 22 – 24 Jun 10.
4. The following areas were inspected during these visits:
 - a. **DNSR Head Annual Visit (13-14 Apr 10).** Commodore David Langbridge (DNSR-Hd) conducted his Annual Review of the Vulcan site receiving updates from the Authorisee and his staff on all aspects of nuclear safety on the site. DNSR-Hd was content with the progress being made. IOR-a completed a HASS Audit during this visit, no discrepancies were found.

b. **Consignment of Nuclear Matter (25-27 May 10).** The primary purpose of the visit was to inspect the arrangements under Authorisation Condition (AC) 5 associated with the consignment of nuclear matter. 2 minor observations were raised during this inspection. Overall the inspection team were content that adequate arrangements are in place to demonstrate compliance with AC5.

c. **Exercise Lonestar 10 (22-24 Jun 10).** Exercise Lonestar 10 was conducted on 23 Jun 10 and was found to be an adequate demonstration of the Vulcan site emergency arrangements by both DNSR and NII. At the time of writing the final report is still being written. A few minor points were raised but several outstanding Findings and Observations were cleared as a result of the demonstration.

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. STF has remained shut down during the period of this report due to ongoing maintenance and repair activities.

Distributed by e-mail

DNSR IOR-a
28 Jul 10

Distribution:

NSV, Vulcan NRTE*
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