

VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT

DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT

01 July to 30 September 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 Jul to 30 Sep 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. 10 – 12 Aug 10.
- b. 14 – 16 Sep 10.

4. The following areas were inspected during these visits:

- a. **Training, Duly Authorised Person (DAP) and Suitably Qualified and Experienced Personnel (SQEP) (10-12 Aug 10).** The primary purpose of the visit was to inspect the arrangements under Authorisation Conditions (AC) 10 & 12 associated with the training of personnel on site and the identification and selection of personnel into DAP and SQEP posts. Overall, DNSR was content that Vulcan NRTE's arrangements are compliant with the AC10 & 12

requirements, and a high standard is achieved through their management. One minor observation was made during this inspection.

b. **Nuclear Safety Committees (14-16 Sep 10).** The primary purpose of the visit was to inspect the arrangements under AC 13 associated with the management of Nuclear Safety Committees. DNSR was content with the arrangements and operation of the Safety Committees at Vulcan NRTE and considered that the site had a mature committee structure, backed up by properly documented processes. No findings or observations were identified during this inspection. DNSR IOR-a witnessed a Senior Operations re-qualification Board during this visit and was content that the process was conducted in a satisfactory manner.

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.

Dis tribu ed by e-mail

DNSR IOR-a
26 Oct 10

Distribution:

NSV, Vulcan NRTE*
NSVPA, Vulcan NRTE (fao Dounreay Stakeholder Group)*
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