



HM NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS INSPECTORATE

Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE)

Dounreay

**SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPORTS
QUARTERLY REPORT**

for

1 October to 31 December 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), 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 coordinated 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 did not visit the site during the quarter as the planned inspection had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions in early December.

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)

During the reporting period it was agreed that the DNSR inspection activity was sufficient to ensure that risks to the workforce and public were properly controlled. It is also confirmed that no mandatory regulatory intervention was required from HSE-NII inspectors during the period.

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.

The Site Inspector was informed of a number of conventional safety issues during the reporting period and was satisfied that the immediate actions taken by the site in response were appropriate.

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

TRANSFORMING OUR BUSINESS

Although the previous Government's proposals to establish a separate Office for Nuclear Regulation is still with Ministers for consideration, the challenges of interacting with and regulating the nuclear industry in the UK remain. In response to this HSE's Nuclear Directorate (ND) has established a change programme entitled 'Transformation' which is focusing on improved ways of working internally and improved engagement with Stakeholders. Transformation also reflects the organisation's aim to be recognised as a world-class regulator.

While ND is committed to rising to the challenge of implementing major organisational and operational change, it will not be distracted from taking forward its ongoing high priority work to secure the protection of people and society from the hazards of the nuclear industry.

ND is committed that throughout this process of change that its Stakeholders are kept fully informed of changes and any decisions that are made regarding the future structure of the Regulator. This will be achieved through reports such as the Stakeholder Group Reports on ND's Website. This website is also in the process of being revamped and will be launched in December.