

VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT

DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT

01 January to 31 March 2011

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 Jan to 31 Mar 11.

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. 25-27 Jan 11.
 - b. 8-10 Mar 11.
4. The following areas were inspected during these visits:
 - a. **Decommissioning, Operations and Safety Culture (25-27 Jan 11).** The primary purpose of the visit was to inspect the arrangements under Authorisation Conditions (AC) 24, 25, 26 and 35. The Decommissioning inspection was that held over from the previous Quarter. "Operations" covers a wide range of activities, therefore this aspect of the inspection focussed on the control of operations within the nuclear facilities at Vulcan NRTE. The inspection also considered the effectiveness of the site's safety management through a review of Safety Culture and ongoing safety campaigns. DNSR

were broadly content with the arrangements presented during the inspection and were pleased to note that Vulcan NRTE were moving forward with a safety campaign aimed at backing up the current sound site safety culture.

b. **Examination, Inspection, Maintenance and Testing (8-10 Mar 11).** The primary purpose of the visit was to inspect the arrangements under ACs 28, 29 and 30. The inspection looked at the derivation of the maintenance schedule, including identification of EMIT in the safety case, and the relationship between the safety case and items within the maintenance schedule. Classification and categorisation of EMIT, the management and implementation of EMIT and record keeping were also reviewed. DNSR were very pleased with the arrangements demonstrated under these ACs on this occasion.

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 remained shut down for the majority of this period due to ongoing maintenance and repair activities. The site has only recently returned to critical operations.

DNSR IOR-a
01 Apr 11

Distribution:

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