

Quarterly site report for Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) Dounreay

January to March 2011

Foreword

This report is issued as part of the Office for Nuclear Regulation's (ONR) commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members of the Dounreay Stakeholders Group and are also available on the ONR website (www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/llc).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend the Dounreay Stakeholders Group and will respond to any questions raised there by the members of the group. Any other person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact the ONR.

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Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE), Dounreay

The majority of sites inspected by ONR are licensed by HSE under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (as amended). The Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) in Dounreay 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 ONR through other legislation as noted below. This report summarises the inspection and regulatory activities associated with the Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) which are co-ordinated with inspections by DNSR.

ONR Site Inspectors made inspection visits to the Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) on the following dates during the quarter: -

7-10 March 2011

Routine matters

Inspections on site are undertaken are taken as part of monitoring compliance with:

1. The Health and Safety at Work etc Act (HSWA) 1974 and
2. 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)

The main purpose of this visit was to finalise the handover to the new ONR Nominated Site Inspector and to visit key staff and facilities on site. However, progress with the Recommendations following the ONR/DNSR team inspection on the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 carried out in March 2010, was also reviewed. Eleven of the 28 Recommendations were considered complete with the good progress being made on the remainder, which will be reviewed at the next site visit.

Non-routine matters

Operators are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR Inspectors judge the adequacy of the operator's response including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

There were no items of particular note during the current reporting period.

Regulatory activity

Under Health and Safety legislation ONR 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.

News from ONR

ONR - 1st April 2011

Following an announcement on 8 February 2011, the Government intends to bring forward legislation to create a new independent statutory body outside of the HSE to regulate the nuclear industry. The new statutory corporation will be known as the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and would take on the relevant functions currently carried out by the Health and Safety Executive and the Department for Transport.

The ONR will be a new independent regulator, formally responsible in law for delivering its regulatory functions. The creation of the ONR will consolidate civil nuclear and radioactive transport safety and security regulation in one place.

The proposal will not affect the current regulatory requirements or standards with which industry must comply, and the vast majority of the costs of the regulator would continue to be recovered in charges from operators in the nuclear industry rather than funded by the public purse. Additional organisational costs will be entirely met by the nuclear industry.

Pending the legislation, the Health and Safety Executive has established ONR as a non-statutory body from 1 April 2011, signalling its commitment to secure an appropriately-resourced and responsive regulator for the future challenges of the nuclear sector. The Government will review the functions and processes of the interim body in order to inform its planned legislation.

Following this announcement, work is ongoing to continue the move to ONR. However, business as usual remains unaffected. If you have any further questions, please contact ONRenquiries@hse.gsi.gov.uk.

Fukushima report

The Government has asked the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) for a report on the implications and lessons learned for the UK nuclear industry of the unprecedented events unfolding in Japan. ONR's Chief Inspector, Mike Weightman has full independence to determine the scope of the report and the arrangements for conducting it.

An interim report is due by mid May and the full report by September. These are technical nuclear safety reports and will assess the implications of the unprecedented events in Japan and establish if lessons are to be learned. The reports will not address nuclear or energy policy issues, nor will they be a wholesale review of nuclear safety in the UK.

Submissions from stakeholders with technical information or thoughts about any lessons that can be learned to enhance nuclear safety in the UK are welcomed. Please visit the [ONR website](#) for further information.