

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

October to December 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](http://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 did not make any inspection visits to the Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) during this quarter.

### **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 (REPPiR) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSW99)

There were no routine inspections undertaken this quarter.

### **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**

#### **Final Fukushima report**

The final report, 11 October, revealed no fundamental safety weaknesses in the UK's nuclear industry but concluded that by learning lessons it can be made even safer. The

report, the Government's response and a podcast featuring Mike Weightman is available on the ONR website. A report will be published next year on progress in implementing the lessons for the UK.

### **Radioactive Materials Transport Team (RMTT) join ONR**

The team joined ONR from the Department of Transport on 24 October. The team is responsible for regulating the transport of radioactive material by road and rail in Great Britain, as well as advising on transport by sea and air within the United Kingdom. Their remit covers the transport of material to and from licensed nuclear sites and non-nuclear sectors such as hospitals and education establishments.

### **Non Governmental Organisations Forum**

ONR's second NGO forum was held in London (17 November). Topics covered included openness and transparency, generic design assessment and the final Fukushima report. The forum was well attended with constructive discussion sessions. Minutes will be published on ONR's website and a third forum will be held in April 2012.

### **International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission**

A team of international nuclear security experts led by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) visited the UK in October to assess civil nuclear security arrangements. They concluded the state of civil nuclear security in the UK to be sufficiently robust and identified many examples of good practice within the civil nuclear security regime and a number of valuable recommendations and suggestions.

### **Senior Representatives Conference**

The annual event brought together nuclear industry leaders on 14 November. Discussions focused on: openness and transparency in the post-Fukushima era; promoting a safety culture across all parts of the nuclear industry supply chain; and responding to challenges post-Fukushima.

### **ONR public consultation – update**

The 12 week public consultation to clarify ONR's interpretation of bulk quantities relating to radioactive matter closed on 12 December. ONR is now analysing responses to the consultation and will make a policy announcement once a suitable definition is agreed.

### **Stress tests**

ONR received the progress reports from licensees for UK **non nuclear power plants** by the required date of 15 October. Final reports are due by 31 December with a report due for publication in Spring 2012.

ONR received the final stress tests reports from licensees of UK nuclear power plants by the required date of 31 October. ONR will independently review these reports and provide a UK national report for the European Council by the end of December.

## Generic Design Assessment

On 14 December generic designs for EDF and Areva's UK EPR and Westinghouse's AP1000 reactors were granted interim acceptance by ONR and the Environment Agency. However, neither reactor can be built in the UK until a number of issues are resolved.

ONR published its second **quarterly report** on 8 November.