

Office for Nuclear Regulation

An agency of HSE

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

1 January to 31 March 2013

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 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). 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 licensed site and is regulated by ONR through other legislation as noted below. This report summarises the inspection and regulatory activities associated with Vulcan NRTE which are co-ordinated with inspections by DNSR.

ONR Site Inspectors made inspection visits to Vulcan NRTE on the following dates during the quarter: -

6 February and 12-15 March 2013

The ONR Head of Defence Programme visited the site on 6 February 2013.

Routine matters

Inspections on site are undertaken 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 (REPIR) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSW99)

A site familiarisation and senior level visit by the ONR Head of Defence Programme took place on 6 February. This was led by the MoD management team, supported by lead Rolls-Royce Submarines staff who gave a presentation covering the history and role of the site. A comprehensive programme was undertaken covering introduction to the site and its contractual operating model, safety case management and future operations with a site tour and visit to the Shore Test Facility (STF) pond area.

Following an Inspection in 2010, on 12-15 March ONR carried out a themed intervention in respect of IRR99 to inspect the operator's compliance arrangements and the implementation of those arrangements at the site. In particular, ONR welcomed the identification of areas of good practice and those for improvement presented at the opening meeting. These generally aligned with ONR's findings from the inspection on the implementation of those arrangements. Of the twenty-eight recommendations from the 2010 inspection all bar one had been closed out and a way forward agreed on the outstanding recommendation at this inspection. In addition, a themed inspection to look at the Reactor Chemistry Laboratory had been done in 2012. This produced five recommendations which were also followed up during this inspection and agreement on close-out reached between the ONR and the operator. The ONR overall conclusion from this inspection is that Vulcan NTRE has adequate arrangements for compliance with IRR99 and adequate implementation of those arrangements.

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

Insight into more of ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Quarterly News (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/onr-quarterly-report.htm>). The online publication reports on key themes and developments in each of the regulatory programmes of work and provides an update on ongoing changes at ONR as it progresses toward becoming an independent statutory corporation. Regular news and updates are available on the ONR website (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/index.htm>), together with information about our people, sites that we regulate and the work that we do, as well as key guidance and resources.