

**VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT****DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT****1 January to 31 March 2014****FOREWORD**

This report is issued as part of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator's (DNSR's) commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Defence Nuclear Programme<sup>1</sup> 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 Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Policy Statement requiring the Ministry of Defence (MoD) 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. DNSR is empowered to regulate nuclear and radiological safety in the Defence Nuclear Programme. This is achieved in a manner that complements and joins up with the work of statutory regulators<sup>2</sup>.

Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (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 Dounreay Stakeholder Group. Where possible, a DNSR Inspector will attend Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised. Additionally, DNSR Inspectors may be contacted at their offices at Abbey Wood, Bristol.

**PERIOD OF THIS REPORT**

1. This report covers the quarterly reporting period from 1 January to 31 March 2014.

**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 (AC) compliance or compliance with other regulations or attending formal meetings with site management or their representatives.
3. During this period, two Routine visits were made to Vulcan NRTE by DNSR:
  - a. **21 - 22 January 2014.** To conduct regulatory liaison meetings relating to the management of fuel handling activities following final reactor shutdown, the Vulcan Post Operations Phase. DNSR reviewed the processes by which the site's safety management arrangements will be modified to account for new activities as well as the process to produce associated documentary safety justifications. These meetings form part of DNSR's strategy to specify Regulatory Hold Points as required.
  - b. **11 - 12 March 2014.** To inspect arrangements to manage the conduct of safety significant examinations, inspections, tests and maintenance. Completed maintenance in two facilities was examined; the requirement to conduct the

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<sup>1</sup> Comprising the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme (NNPP) and the Nuclear Weapon Programme (NWP).

<sup>2</sup> The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment Agency (EA) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

maintenance activities in question were soundly based in an appropriate safety case and were conducted by qualified individuals, using suitable tools and in accordance with suitable written instructions.

**PERMISSION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY**

4. DNSR has not granted permission for any new activities during this quarter. DNSR has not placed any regulatory enforcement actions on the Naval Superintendent in this quarter.

**NON-ROUTINE MATTERS**

5. The Secretary of State for Defence made a statement to the House of Commons on 6 March 2014 relating to his decision to refuel HMS Vanguard during her next Deep Maintenance Period. This decision follows the detection of an issue with the reactor at Vulcan NRTE and was based on information gleaned from operation of that reactor. DNSR confirms that operations at Vulcan NRTE have been undertaken with full regard to the safety of the workforce, the public and the environment and that no additional public risk occurred as a result of the trials programme. As is normal practice, following the detection of the issue with the reactor, DNSR was kept informed of its status at all appropriate stages. DNSR granted final authority to operate once a complete and thorough analysis was made and DNSR had physically confirmed that all necessary measures were implemented to maintain safety.

*< Signed on Original >*

I Miller  
Lt Cdr  
DNSR IOR-a  
4 April 2014

Distribution:

NSV, Vulcan NRTE\*  
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