



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Vulcan (Naval Reactor Test Establishment)

Report for period 1 April – 30 June 2014

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site Inspectors from ONR usually attend the Dounreay Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to enquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE)

The majority of sites inspected by ONR are licensed 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 the Vulcan NRTE which are co-ordinated with inspections by DNSR. From the beginning of April 2014 ONR is the sole regulator for conventional safety on the Vulcan NRTE Authorised Site.

1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

Interventions at site took place on the 17 to 19 June with the Site Inspector present for the duration. The Head of ONR's Propulsion Sub-Programme was present on the 17 and 18 June, and an ONR Radiological Protection Principal Inspector was present on the afternoon of the 17 until the end of the 19 June.

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74); and regulations made under HSWA74, 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 (MHSWR99).

In June the site held a Level 1 Demonstration Exercise i.e. an exercise that concentrates primarily on the operator's actions on and off the site. As is the normal practice for such exercises on a MoD Authorised Site, ONR supported DNSR in assessing the exercise. ONR concurred with DNSR's assessment of the exercise being an adequate demonstration. In particular, since the previous demonstration exercise NRTE Vulcan had introduced an electronic borer system and this appeared to assist the site in effective mustering and prompt identification of missing personnel.

Whilst at site, the Site Inspector together with the Radiological Protection Principal Inspector undertook an IRR99 compliance inspection. At the start of the inspection ONR were talked through the worker dose records for the Shore Test Facility pre and post the fuel issue that led to the Secretary of Defence's decision to refuel HMS Vanguard (see Non-Routine Matters in the previous Quarterly Report). The ONR Inspectors inspected in situ some of the measures being taken to manage worker dose during sampling operations and subsequent sample analysis. The ONR Inspectors concurred with NRTE Vulcan that to date at the Shore Test Facility, with the measures in place, there did not appear to be a significant increase in dose uptake to workers, and that doses were as low as reasonably practicable.

During the IRRs compliance inspection NRTE Vulcan provided evidence of good progress on closing out a number of findings from a previous ONR IRR99 compliance inspection undertaken in March 2013.

ONR reported in the last quarterly report that the site had agreed to produce a new REPPPIR Report of Assessment (ROA). The new ROA was received by ONR towards the end of this reporting period. This will now be subject to ONR assessment, with DNSR support, and in due course ONR will review the off-site planning area as per REPPPIR Regulation 9(1).

2.2 Other work

On the evening of the 18 June the Site Inspector attended, as an observer, the Dounreay Stakeholder Meeting held at a Hotel in Thurso. Details of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group activities can be accessed at www.doureaystakeholdergroup.org/ .

During the visit to the Vulcan NRTE in June the Site Inspector held a periodic meeting with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

There were no such matters or events of significance during the period.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR inspectors, and specialist inspectors may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. No such documents were issued during this period.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Quarterly News. The online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/onr-quarterly-report.htm>) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the ongoing changes at ONR. <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>. For the latest news and updates from ONR visit the website and sign up for our ebulletin (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>).

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