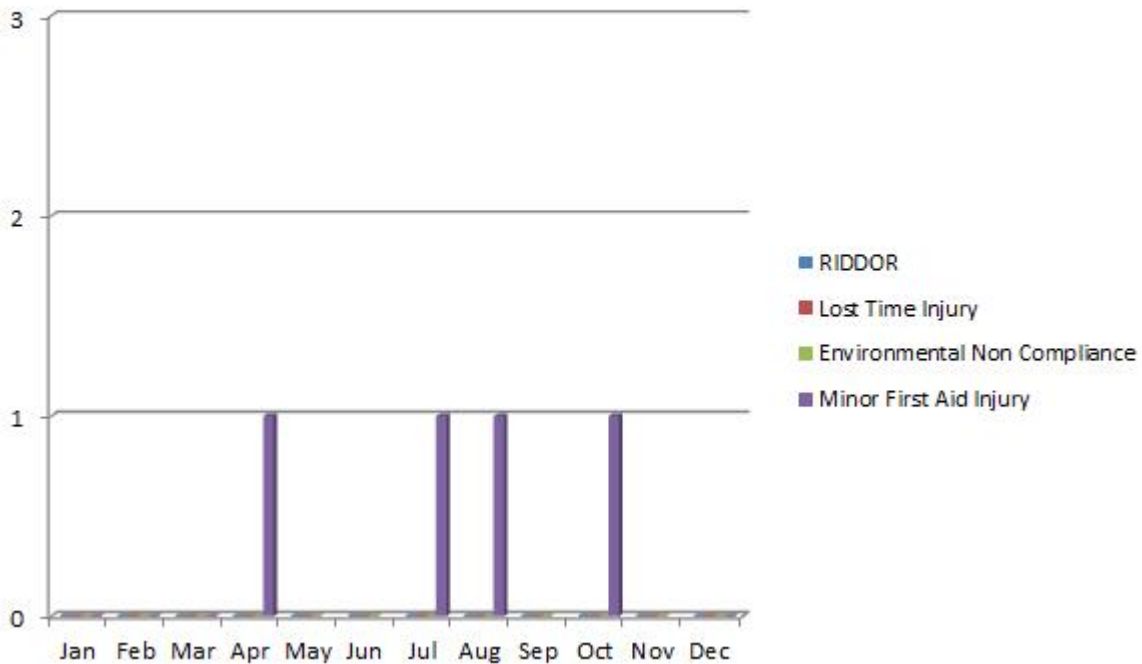


**VULCAN Naval Reactor Test Establishment Report to DSG dated 6 Jan 2015**

**Health, Safety & Environmental Performance**

**Safety & Environment**



**Health and Safety**

No Lost Time Accidents since 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 (1552 days as at 31 December 2014)

No RIDDOR reportable incidents.

Behavioural Safety Refresher topic – “Having the Courage to Act” & “Receiving a Conversation” - was rolled out on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014.

Rolls-Royce Submarines continue to participate in the UK BP Safety Reps Forum and the National Operating Experience Learning Group (OELG) with Vulcan representation at both during the reporting period. Both offer a good opportunity for benchmarking and sharing good practice.

**Environment**

No environmental non-compliance incidents.

## **Shore Test Facility Programme**

The MOD has completed a review of the benefits of critical operations at the Shore Test Facility (STF) in support of the validation of the safety justification of current and future submarine reactor cores and intends to operate STF until late 2015.

Since the last written report no Events have occurred that required reporting to ONR in accordance with their mandatory reporting criteria, however one Event has been reported to SEPA in accordance with their mandatory reporting criteria and was verbally briefed at the last DSG - A defect at Vulcan NRTE allowed small quantities of radioactive gases to be discharged through an authorised route into the atmosphere in an unplanned manner. The site annual discharge limit was not exceeded and there were no safety or environmental implications.

## **Radioactive Waste Disposal**

The current percentage level of discharge against the maximum detailed in the SEPA letter of agreement at end Dec 14 was:

	Type	Percentage
Gaseous	Noble Gases	13.1%
	Beta Particulate	23.5%
Liquid	All Beta emitting Radionuclides	6.0%
	Tritium	13.77%
Solid	Other Radionuclides	0.006%

## **Inspection / Audit Programme**

The table below outlines the current programme of audits for the next 6 months

Year	Month	Auditor	Audit/Subject
2015	January	DNSR	Incidents on the Site (Authorisation Condition 7), Duty of Co-operation (Further Authorisation Condition 1), High Activity Sealed Source (HASS) holdings.
2015	March	DNSR	Organisational Baseline and transition to new Organisational Baseline (Authorisation Conditions 10, 12 & 36)
2015	March	Principle Security Advisor	MOD Defence Equipment & Support Nuclear Security Inspection
2015	June	DNSR	Exercise Lonestar 15
2015	TBA	DNSR	Management Systems Inspection (Authorisation Condition 17)

2015	TBA	DNSR	Themed Inspection on plant transition and management arrangement (modification) (Authorisation Conditions 22 & 35)
2015	TBA	DNSR	Themed Inspection on Post Irradiation Examination (PIE) Activities
2015	TBA	DNSR	Permissioning Inspection for Flask Handling Solution
2015	TBA	DNSR	DNSR Head Visit
2015	TBA	ONR	Conventional Health and Safety inspection

### **Vulcan Defuel and Decommissioning Programme**

As presented to the DSG in Dec 12 and updated in Jul 13, the Vulcan Defuel and Decommissioning Programme is currently in the assessment phase. The possible options for Vulcan's future range from placing the prototype facilities into care and maintenance through to decommissioning of the site and termination of the lease with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. The assessment phase is expected to report in 2016 and will make recommendations to Ministers on the future of the site. Ministers announced in November 2011 that a PWR 3 prototype reactor core at Vulcan NRTE was not required. The Defence Secretary has asked the MOD Chief Scientific Adviser to revisit this decision in light of the Fuel Element Breach and report to him by October 14. This future prototype report will be considered as part of the assessment phase.

K A Dyke  
Commander Royal Navy  
Naval Superintendent Vulcan