



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

Report for period 01 April – 30 June 2015

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 for the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Dounreay Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire 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 ONR inspection and other regulatory activities associated with 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

The ONR Site Inspector made visits to the site on the following dates during the quarter:

21 April 2015.
23 to 24 June 2015.

An ONR Principal Inspector in Radiation Protection visited the site on the following dates during the quarter:

23 to 25 June 2015.

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 its annual (Level 1) demonstration Emergency 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 demonstration. ONR concurred with DNSR's assessment of the exercise as being an adequate demonstration.

An ONR specialist Inspector undertook an inspection to assess compliance with Regulation 8 of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99); the arrangements for restricting the exposure of workers to ionising radiation at NRTE Vulcan. The inspection judged the Authorisee's compliance to be adequate. The Authorisee has embedded the requirement to restrict doses within its policy, strategy and management arrangements; it has effective arrangements in place to plan work in designated areas and has good arrangements for the monitoring and trending of worker doses. Areas for improvement were identified related to programme planning arrangements and the effectiveness of local rules.

2.2 Other work

There has been a change in the nominated Site Inspector for NRTE Vulcan and as part of the formal handover process, the new Site Inspector undertook familiarisation and plant walk-down visits at the site in April.

The Site Inspector met with the lead Safety Representative on site to gather information and to support the Safety Representative's important role of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

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

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR 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 on-going changes at ONR. For the latest news and updates from ONR visit the website and sign up for our e-bulletin (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>).

ONR published its [Annual Report and Accounts for 2014/15](#) on 29 June. The report details key developments during our first year as a public corporation including:

- progress against ONR's Annual Plan 2014/15, including the Chief Nuclear Inspector's annual statement on the safety and security performance of the nuclear industry;
- details of management arrangements and how our resources have been utilised;
- a summary of our governance arrangements;
- the financial statements for 2014/15;
- remuneration of non-executive and executive members of the ONR Board; and
- the Certificate of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Houses of Parliament, containing an unqualified audit opinion.

6 CONTACTS

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS

website: www.onr.org.uk

email: ONREnquiries@onr.gsi.gov.uk

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