

# Fuel Movements Brief to the Dounreay Stakeholder Sub - Group

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# Overview

- Why Naval Nuclear Propulsion
- Purpose of Fuel movements and my role
- Scope of Fuel Movements
- Transportation Framework
- Transportation Arrangements
  - Container
  - Road/Rail
- Nuclear Emergency Organisation (NEO)

# Why Nuclear Propulsion? Programme Requirements?

- Royal Navy submarines are powered by nuclear reactors. Nuclear propulsion provides considerable advantages.
  - **Stealth** - Generation of power without air allows nuclear submarines to remain submerged for long periods of time, only limited by food stores and crew fatigue.
  - **Mobility** - High power output allows submarines to operate at high speeds for long periods of time without regular re-fuelling.
  - **Reach** – Long intervals between refuelling and ocean accessibility allows global reach and deployment of capabilities.
- The Defence Nuclear Propulsion (NP) Programme is regulated by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) in accordance with JSP 518.



# Nuclear Propulsion Fuel Cycle Overview

Fuel  
Creation

New Fuel Delivery  
and Load

In-Service

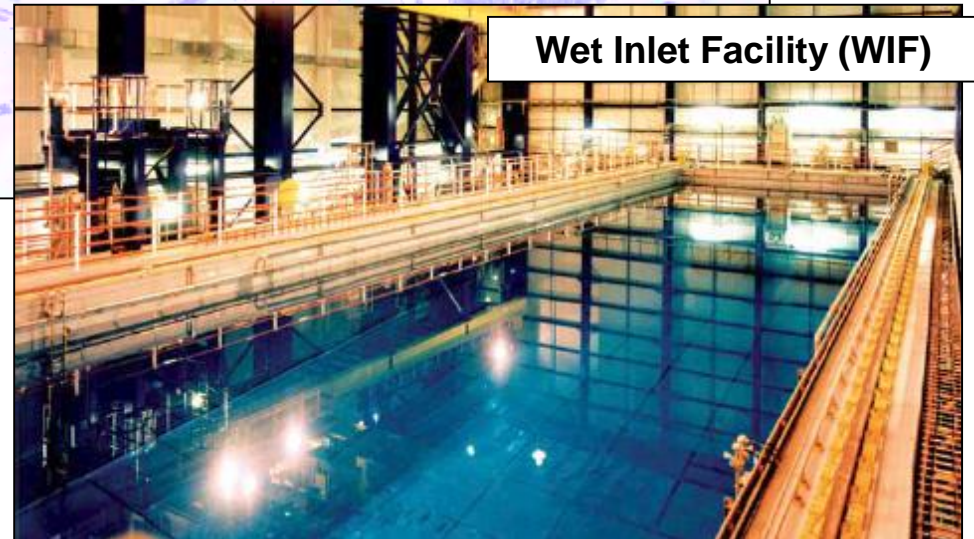
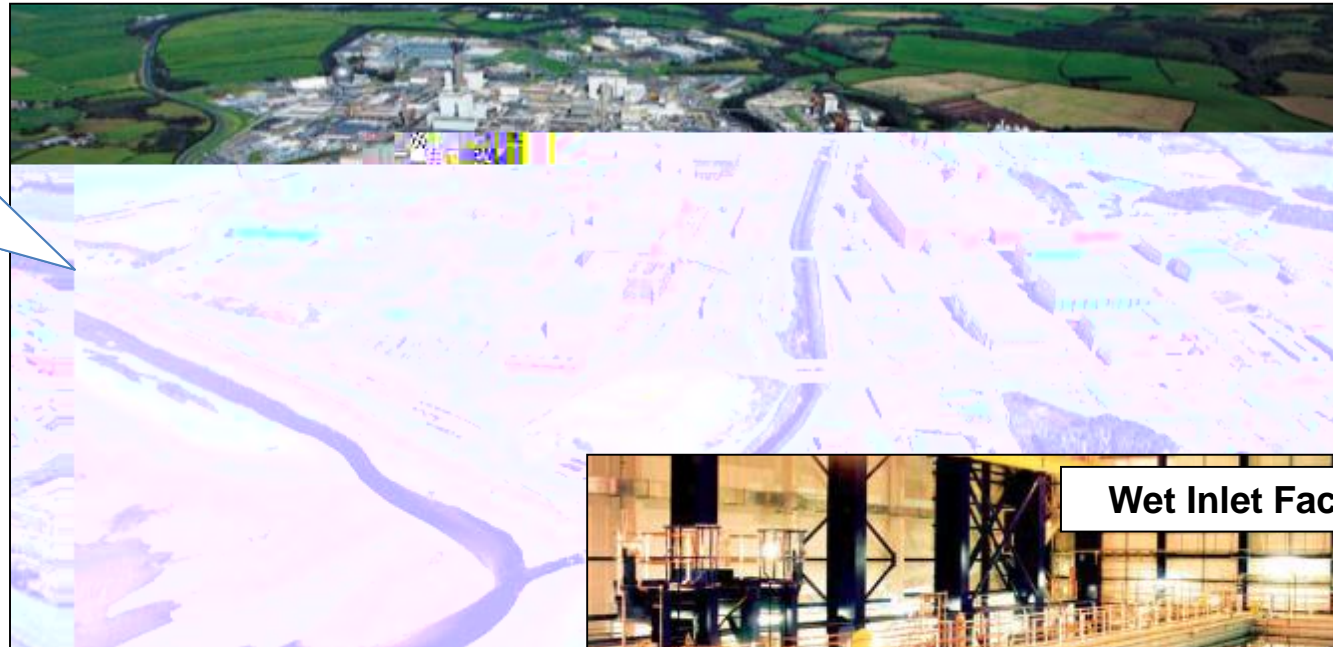
- The transport of nuclear material is required to:
  - Deliver new fuel Modules to support the new submarine build Programme.
  - Deliver new fuel Modules to support the refuel of current in-service submarines.
  - To move and consolidate used fuel Modules to a safe and secure storage facility.

## NRTE - Authorised Site



- Ceased Critical operations in 2015
- First move is to export legacy fuel Modules ahead of defuel activity
- Look to undertake 12 moves over next 6 years

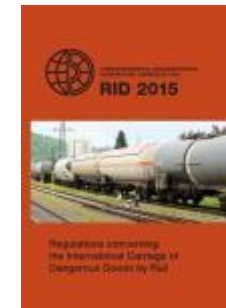
# Sellafield - Nuclear Licensed Site



- MoD intermediate storage facility for Irradiated Fuel.

# Nuclear Transport Legal Framework

- Nuclear fuel movements are conducted in accordance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material.
- The IAEA regulations are incorporated into the following texts:
  - European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR 2015).
  - International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID 2015).
- The European Union Inland Transport Directive requires two key commitments from EU member states:
  - Party to ADR Agreement for international movement of dangerous goods into and through the territories of signatory states.
  - Domestic legislation of EU countries should align with the requirements established in ADR.
- The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations (2009) provides the UK domestic legislation that requires compliance with ADR and RID.



# Transport Container

- Nuclear propulsion fuel is transported in specially designed Radioactive Material (RAM) container.
- The containers are designed to meet the characteristics of the fuel inside and tested to withstand a range of transport accident scenarios.
- Rolls-Royce are the Design and Technical Authority for the RAM containers under contract to MOD.
- Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) are the Competent Authority for licensing RAM containers for transport of nuclear material in the public domain.





# Road Transport to Rail Head



- Trailer will have modesty covers.
  - Embedded within convoy will be Consignor Health Physics and Container / Fuel Handling representatives
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- Bespoke Trailer and Tractor Unit compliant with statutory requirements.
  - Road Transport escorted by Ministry of Defence Police (MDP).

# Rail Transport Arrangements

- Transported by rail with Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) security escort and British Transport Police (BTP) rail incident support.
- Rail Transport with to up to two flask transporters and escort coaches.
- Initial Response Force (IRF) embedded within convoy and supported by Consignor Health Physics and Container / Fuel Handling representatives.
- MOD provides 24 hour incident response and Technical Guidance Group.
- Exercised and demonstrated successfully in 2014; Another exercise will be held in 2016 prior to fuel moves.



# Nuclear Emergency Organisation (NEO)

**To comply with Policy, MOD must plan for, and respond to, an emergency involving Defence nuclear assets.**

- MOD meets its statutory/legal obligations through the NEO and:
  - Ensures the safety of nuclear programmes by preventing emergencies happening, and makes arrangements to respond to an incident or emergency which might also arise as a result of a terrorist event.
  - Ensures that nuclear emergency response arrangements and planning assumptions are fully aligned with local / regional response, wider departmental / government crisis management and / or cross government co-ordination arrangements.
- Exercised and demonstrated successfully in 2014
- An exercise will be held in 2016 prior to fuel moves.

# Summary

- Fuel Movements between Vulcan and Sellafield will commence in 2016
- Movements will be conducted in specialist Radioactive Material (RAM) containers called Used Fuel Flasks (UFF) under the Carriage of Dangerous Goods (CDG) framework.
- Moved to Sellafield for long term storage and examination
- Planning including engagement with local Authorities, Police Scotland and other English police forces has begun.
- Current Plan is for 12 movements over a 6 year period