



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Site Report for Vulcan NRTE

Report for period 1 April to 30 June 2019

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 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 where these reports are presented 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. Vulcan NTRE 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 Vulcan NRTE, which are co-ordinated with inspections by DNSR.

1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

The ONR site inspectors made an inspection on the following dates during the report period 1st April to 30th June 2019:

- 5th to 6th June 2019.

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 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

In this period, the following inspection activity was undertaken at Vulcan NRTE:

Emergency arrangements: ONR provided support to the DNSR site inspector for the observation and assessment of the Level 1 site safety demonstration exercise conducted as part of the off-site Level 2 exercise [LONESTAR 19]. ONR's observations aligned with those of the DNSR inspection team and supported their assessment of an adequate demonstration of their arrangements against the requirements of AC11. Furthermore, the exercise also served to demonstrate Vulcan's compliance against the requirements of REPIR with regards the provision of an adequate on-site plan and the setting of dose limits for emergency services personnel and, the requirements of IRR17 with regards the provision of an adequate contingency plan and the implementation of appropriate dose control measures.

2.2 Other work

No other work was undertaken during this quarter.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

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

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

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. No such documents were issued during the period.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

5.1 Corporate news

Enforcement Action

A summary of enforcement action is provided below. Further detail is available on [our website](#).

- On 2 April Sellafield Ltd were fined £380,000 following ONR's prosecution for safety breaches relating to equipment used for the processing of plutonium.
- ONR notified Devonport Royal Dockyard (DRDL) of its intention to prosecute following an incident involving a crane that occurred in September 2018. Proceedings are scheduled to commence at Plymouth Magistrates' Court on 23 July 2019.
- Improvement notice issued to Sellafield Ltd in April 2019 following an incident in the waste vitrification plant in February 2019 where a container was not welded shut.

Regulatory Updates

- In April we announced the appointment of two NGOs to the Chief Nuclear Inspector's Independent Advisory Panel (IAP) to increase diversity of views and strengthen our openness and transparency. We introduced the Chief Nuclear Inspector's IAP in 2016 to provide us with independent advice on nuclear matters.

Stakeholder Engagement

- In May we published our strategic framework for international engagement, setting out the priority objectives and criteria for international engagement up to 2025. The framework is available on our [website](#).
- We launched two public consultations in April and June, both relating to the Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive 2013. The first is a HSE consultation being managed by ONR on a new [Approved Code of Practice](#) that will assist dutyholder compliance with the new Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPiR). The consultation closed on 5 June but was extended for local authorities until 27 June as some of the consultation took place during the pre-election period for Local Government. A final version of the ACOP will be published in autumn 2019. The second is on [updated guidance](#) to support the amendments to the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations (CDG). This remains open until 19 July 2019. A final version of the guidance will be published in late summer 2019.
- On 15 and 16 May we hosted the 23rd meeting of the Heads of European Radiological protection Competent Authorities (HERCA) in Liverpool. The meeting brought together the heads of radiological protection competent authorities from 22 European countries and involved over 50 experts from across Europe. HERCA is a voluntary association where the members work

together to identify common issues and propose practical solutions to ensure the highest levels of radiation protection in Europe.

- On 23 May our Chief Nuclear Inspector, Mark Foy led a [webinar](#), focusing on the work we do to regulate the industry in how it manages the risks arising from external hazards. Over 25 external stakeholders including NGOs joined the webinar.
- We held our annual [Industry Conference](#) on 5 June 2019 focusing on the theme of ‘Open for Innovation’. More than 100 senior representatives from industry, government, other regulators, academics and research bodies attended with speakers including Joanna Whittington, Director General, Energy and Security at BEIS and Rumina Velshi, President of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

Corporate News

- Mark McAllister joined ONR on 1 April, succeeding Nick Baldwin CBE as our new Chair. As Chair, Mark will be responsible for ensuring that we deliver our mission to provide efficient and effective regulation of the nuclear industry on behalf of the public.
- In April, we published our [Corporate Plan for 2019/20](#), setting out our priorities and objectives for 2019/20. Maintaining the delivery of core regulatory functions and holding industry to account on behalf of the public remain at the heart of everything we do.
- We have been praised by the Nuclear Skills Strategy Group (NSSG), a government organisation, for ensuring we have the right capability and capacity to meet our regulatory demands. They removed the regulatory capacity risk placed on us in 2016 as recognition of our ongoing commitment to developing our staff and expanding our recruitment pipelines.
- We published our [Annual Report and Accounts](#) on 20 June highlighting our performance and key achievements in 2018/2019. We have continued to deliver our prime purpose of public safety, ensuring that dutyholders met the required standards of safety and security that society expects. We completed more than 750 inspections across 37 licensed sites, granting permission for 30 nuclear-related activities, serving nine improvement notices and instigating four prosecutions.

5.2

All our latest news is available on our website www.onr.org.uk

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