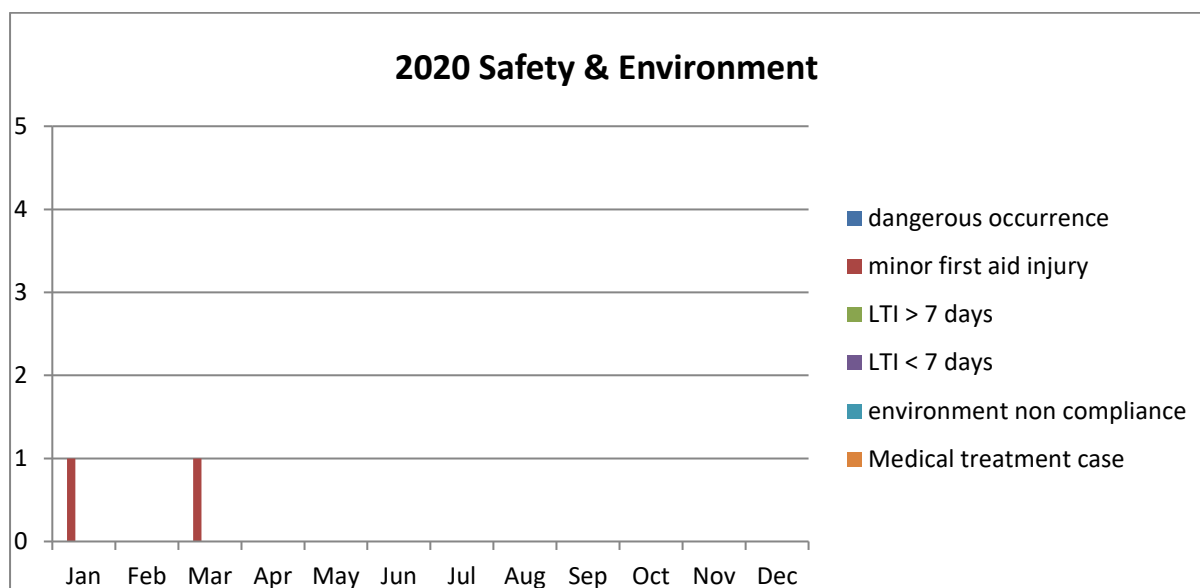


VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG Sub Group – July 2020**Health and Safety/COVID-19**

A statement on the site response to COVID-19 was submitted at DSG request in the period since the last routine Vulcan report. This is recorded in DSG(2020)M002. Since this update the site has, following liaison with the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator, resumed two further key activities with appropriate COVID-19 safety measures in place:

- Repair and overhaul of submarine nuclear reactor equipment.
- Dounreay Submarine Prototype Building (DSMP1) modifications in support of future pond fuel clearance.

In support of the above, the stores building is manned for limited times each week and design support attend the site in a staggered shift pattern for access to relevant IT which is unable to be accessed remotely.

In March, as part of the initial response to COVID-19, Vulcan NRTE was able to provide PPE to a Wick Surgery, Castletown Surgery and the Caithness Community Nursing Team. Sufficient PPE stocks were retained to support site activities.

Environment

There have been no challenges to the Approval of Arrangements (AoA) limits during this period. No SEPA inspections have been conducted during this period but weekly contact has been maintained by the MOD(V) team with SEPA throughout the period of COVID-19 restrictions to enable the early identification and discussion of any potential non-compliance issues.

Radioactive Waste Disposal

At the end of June 2020, the annual rolling discharge (expressed as a percentage against *the maximum detailed in the SEPA letter of agreement*) was:

	Type	Percentage
Gaseous	Noble Gases	0%
	Other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	20.9%
Liquid	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.26%
	Tritium	0.003%
Solid	Other Radionuclides	0%

Shore Test Facility Programme

Preparations to complete defuel of the STF reactor and the next consignment of nuclear fuel were paused after the COVID-19 lock down was put in place. However, after detailed risk assessment, training and consultation the work to support fuel consignment was approved for resumption by DNSR.

Events

Since the last meeting no Events have occurred that required reporting to DNSR or ONR in accordance with their mandatory reporting criteria.

Emergency Arrangements

Vulcan is now REPIR19 compliant in all respects with the exception of the off-site plan which is with the Highland Council who have been (understandably) unable to resource its final development and approval. The rescheduling of the annual LONESTAR nuclear emergency response exercise deferred from the end of June due to COVID-19 is being examined through the MOD Nuclear Emergency Arrangements Group. The challenge of rescheduling a number of delayed MOD exercises alongside similarly deferred exercises for civilian licenced nuclear sites will understandably strain both the regulatory and MOD exercise facilitator resources. The difficulty of running exercises with appropriate social distancing assumptions in relatively confined areas of emergency control centres is also a key factor to be managed.

Inspection / Audit Programme

The table below outlines the rescheduling of external audits that were planned from April:

Year	Month	Auditor	Audit/Subject
2020	April	DNSR	Level 2 Regulatory Interface Forum – Postponed (To be combined with Annual Review of Safety)
2020	June	DNSR	LONESTAR Exercise – Postponed Nov/Dec TBC
2020	July	DNSR	AC18 Radiation Protection Inspection (originally scheduled for May)
2020	August	DNSR	Annual Review of Safety – Provisionally 19 Aug
2020	August	DNSR	Operational Readiness Inspection for Shore Test Facility Reactor Defuel - TBC

Vulcan Defuel and Decommissioning Programme

Following the online Market Engagement Day (MED) in early July, the decommissioning planning and commercial process is being progressed. The MED was well attended by the interested parties with positive support from the DSG in promoting local businesses. The presentation included details of the Social Value Model which is due to be rolled out across UK government later in the current year, during the decommissioning competition period. This will place a strong bias during tender assessments towards: Diverse Supply Chains; Skills and Employment; Environmental Sustainability; Inclusion and Wellbeing; and Safe and Secure Supply Chains.

The next planned activity will be the Pre-Qualification process which is scheduled for October this year. This seeks to assure the MOD that bidders meet a baseline of requirements for progression to the next competition stage.

Key Personnel Changes

The Rolls Royce General Manager changed over upon the retirement of John Hook and arrival of Andy Maxwell at the beginning of May.

M D Cleminson
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan