



**Health and Safety**

The Vulcan site continues to actively deliver key defence outputs working hard to maintain challenging schedules and always retaining an absolute focus on the Health and Safety of all those on site.

It is regretful that since the last report, two injuries have occurred on site, the first in November where a hand injury required medical treatment; the second injury occurred due to a slip in the carpark. Accident investigations and learning exercises were implemented for both.

**COVID 19**

With the recent changes announced by the Scottish Government to the COVID-19 public protection measures, level 4 on 26th December and full Lockdown from 5th January, additional COVID-19 security measure have being taken.

The SDA takes the health and safety of our workforce, our contractors and community extremely seriously and ensures that it is placed at the heart of all we do. Since the first lockdown in March 2020 we have made significant changes to the way we deliver our outputs at the site through the addition of numerous new precautions and mitigations against COVID-19 and its methods of transmission to maximise the protection provided.

Anticipating by a week, the level 4 guidelines and increased restrictions announced from 26th December, we reaffirmed to all personnel and contractors that where possible work should be conducted from home. The only exceptions to this being where individuals were directly engaged in the physical operations and security of the site and working from home was not practicable or possible. Following the further restriction on 4<sup>th</sup> January we critically examined the need for those who travel to the site from outside the Highland region and have further restricted this travel to only those who are directly engaged in the physical operations and security of the site. Whilst this will be challenging to sustain in the longer term, it is the right thing to do for Vulcan and the community in which we operate. These

restrictions will be kept under constant review as circumstances and Scottish Government measures change.

Vulcan is taking a proactive stance to minimise the risk to both the workforce and general public and to comply with both UK and Scottish Government guidelines whilst simultaneously sustaining the needs of Defence and I am grateful for the continued support from the DSG as we continue to navigate the challenges of COVID-19.

### **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.

An Annual Review of Environment (Radiological) took place with SEPA on 16 December reviewing the previous year's performance and looking ahead to future plans. The review provided a useful briefing method for the new site inspector and will become a permanent feature in the calendar.

### **Radioactive Waste Disposal**

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

|                | <b>Type</b>  | <b>Percentage</b> |
|----------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>Gaseous</b> | Noble Gases  | 0%                |
|                | Other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.     | 20.4%             |
| <b>Liquid</b>  | All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together. | 0.18%             |
|                | Tritium  | 0.003%            |
| <b>Solid</b>   | Other Radionuclides  | 0%                |

### **Shore Test Facility Programme**

Preparations to commence defuel of the STF reactor have advanced with the first batch of practical demonstrations for each defuel team being conducted in late November/early December. These were subject to external MOD led assessment by defuel subject matter experts. Further internal assessments are in progress to cover other key defuel activities. Final modifications to support defuel to the STF Pond continue to be progressed together

with production of operational documentation. The defuel is subject to rigorous hold point control.

### **DSMP1 Pond Fuel Removal**

The modifications to enable despatch of used fuel in the DSMP1 Pond have continued with the notable completion of a loading pier.

### **Events**

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

### **Inspection / Audit Programme**

Due to COVID safeguards, no on-site regulatory inspections have occurred since the last report although as stated above an external assessment of defuel teams has been able to take place.

### **Emergency Arrangements**

Vulcan remains REPP19 compliant in all respects with the combined Dounreay and Vulcan NRTE Off-site Emergency Plan approved and issued by Highland Council in November 2020. We continue to manage the impact of COVID-19 on our ability to undertake, safely a number of delayed MOD exercises. Similarly, deferred exercise for civilian licenced nuclear sites puts a strain on the regulator and MOD exercise facilitator resources. The result of this has been that there was no LONESTAR nuclear emergency response exercise in the 2020 calendar year; the exercise remains provisionally planned for May 2021 with the scoping meeting will take place later this month. In lieu of this, a series of half-day response team tabletop exercises were undertaken towards the end of 2020, using the COVID-19 social distancing and mitigations appropriate at the time of delivery. Similarly, the annual 2020 security exercise was postponed, it has yet to be rescheduled, but is unlikely to be held before Spring 2021.

### **Vulcan Decommissioning Programme**

We have been assessing the forward Vulcan programme in light of the ongoing COVID restrictions and this has identified some further operational activities that may be required post Dec 22. We are developing the full scope of these and the way ahead for the Vulcan programme is still under review. This has resulted in the withdrawal of the Prior Information Notice (PIN) for the Vulcan Site Management and Decommissioning competition while we establish a clear way ahead. A new notice will be published on the Defence Contracts Bulletin in due course and the DSG will be informed in parallel. However, it should be emphasised that we remain committed to the prompt decommissioning of the site and to a programme that remains coherent with that of DSRL.

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