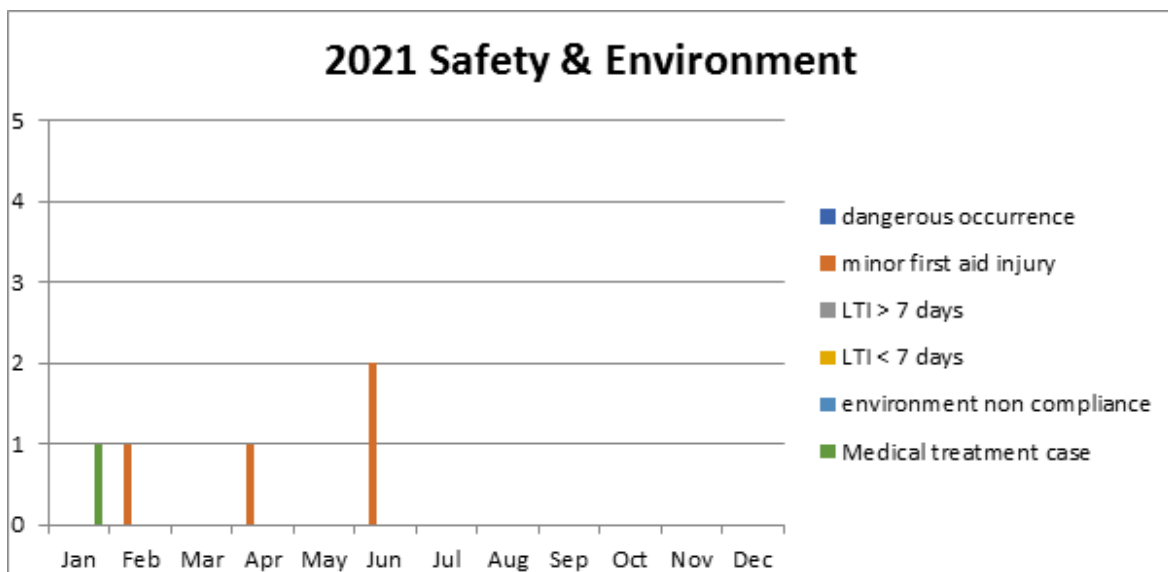


VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – July 2021**Health and Safety/COVID-19**

1 medical treatment case was reported in January when a leg injury was sustained by a contractor.

1 minor injury was reported in February due to a minor cut to head.

1 minor injury was reported in April due to a minor cut to finger.

2 minor injuries were reported in June due to a minor graze to head and a minor acid burn to cheek.

In February, an on-site Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing facility was established for MOD, Ministry of Defence Police, Rolls-Royce and sub-contractors. This has seen good utilisation with over 1800 tests undertaken thus far, supporting the site sustaining COVID-19 safe operation during the recent lockdown. This facility was recently phased out and superseded by an on-site distribution hub for LFD home test kits.

Since rollout of the hub, positive COVID LFD home test results have occurred, but only 2 have been subsequently confirmed as positive (asymptomatic) cases by PCR test. On each occasion of a positive LFD test, all potential site close contacts have been required to self-isolate until further Health Protection Scotland advice has enabled the list of contacts to be narrowed down. Thorough cleaning/temporary closure of affected work areas has also been undertaken in accordance with guidance. Due to having 2 confirmed COVID cases in quick succession we followed the Health Protection Scotland procedure in reporting a 2-person cluster. Other than supporting their contract tracing, they required no additional actions above our existing protocols.

The previously briefed plan has been achieved to rollout washable, reusable face masks for site staff in sufficient numbers for sustained daily use, thereby minimising environmental impact.

Consultation has commenced for both Rolls-Royce and MOD on the wider return to site of staff who have been working from home. We will not do this ahead of clear Scottish Government direction that a return to work is appropriate, noting that level 0 guidance is that people should still work from home where possible.

Vulcan will become tobacco free on 1 August 2021 and fully smoke free (no vaping) from 1 August 2022 in accordance with MOD Policy.

The HSE team continue to issue regular Health & Safety/COVID-19 briefings to all Vulcan personnel. A programme addressing both physical and mental health is being delivered throughout 2021; the health and wellbeing roadshow was delivered as an online event. The SDA has also provided a series of Skype sessions on resilience which have been well received throughout - this is in addition to the SDA's Employee Assistance Programme which provides support to family members as well as the SDA employee.

On Monday 28 June, the on-site canteen was reopened, having been shut since the first lockdown in March 2020.

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 an online review is scheduled for later in July.

Radioactive Waste Disposal

At the end of April 2021, 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.	22.0%
Liquid	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.04%
	Tritium	0.12%
Solid	Other Radionuclides	0.001%

Shore Test Facility Programme

Preparations to commence defuel of the STF reactor have continued to progress with further practical demonstrations and a comprehensive series of oral boards for team leaders/deputy team leaders covering knowledge of the defuel process and team management. Further internally assessed team practical demonstrations are scheduled to be conducted in the near-term covering fuel transfer into the pond. Final modifications and equipment installation 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 with a milestone recently achieved that approved installation of the final pre-fuel movement structural elements above the reactor pressure vessel.

DSMP1 Pond Fuel Removal

The modifications to enable despatch of used fuel from the DSMP1 Pond have continued with work being carried out on the shipping route through the building and within the pond enclosure itself. As the modifications conclude, the emphasis will change to team training and assessment prior to operations commencing.

Events

Since the last meeting one event has occurred that required reporting to DNSR in accordance with their mandatory reporting criteria. This concerned a health physics monitor involved in the work to support the upcoming STF defuel who had skin contamination detected on their hand at 30cps $\beta\gamma$. The source of contamination is understood and contained. An investigation is ongoing to prevent recurrence.

Emergency Arrangements

As a result of the impact of the recent lockdown, the LONESTAR nuclear emergency response will now take place 25 November 2021.

Inspection / Audit Programme

Due to COVID safeguards, no on-site regulatory inspections have occurred since the last report although DNSR remote inspections have been able to take place. It is anticipated that DNSR will be attending site in the near future.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

We have highlighted previously the withdrawal of the PIN due to the requirement to assess the impact of some additional scope that the site has been requested to undertake. On Thursday 17 June, the Minister of State for Defence Procurement Jeremy Quin submitted a Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) to Parliament to provide an update on the Vulcan programme. The Statement confirmed that the Ministry of Defence remains committed to the timely decommissioning of the Vulcan site, but also identified that a recent review of the totality of fuel management activity has identified that the facilities used at Vulcan will now be required longer than originally planned.

The Department will deliver its intent to remove fuel from the site as soon as is reasonably practicable and we will therefore pursue an effective balance of decommissioning delivery while meeting the need to support the extended scope of the operational work. It is not expected the decision to extend fuel management activity at the Vulcan site for up to three years will impact on the coherent approach being taken with the activity at the Dounreay civil site.

I would like to assure the meeting that this is not a restart of Nuclear Reactor Operations, it is a short-term requirement to use the Vulcan fuel management capabilities longer than originally planned.

An interim commercial update was issued to industry following the WMS, it is anticipated that the Prior Information Note, taking into account the change to the scope, will be issued in Quarter 3 of 2021, followed shortly afterwards by the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire and Request for Information from the interested bidders.

M D Cleminson
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan