

**VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT****DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT****1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021****FOREWORD**

This report is issued as part of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator's (DNSR's) commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Defence Nuclear Enterprise<sup>1</sup> available to the workforce and the public. The Secretary of State for Defence is answerable to Parliament for the safety of all defence activities; he has issued a Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Policy Statement requiring the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to comply with legislation, and where there are exemptions relating to defence activities, to make, so far as is practicable, arrangements at least as good as those required by legislation. DNSR is empowered to regulate nuclear and radiological safety in the Defence Nuclear Enterprise. This is achieved in a manner that complements and joins up with the work of statutory regulators<sup>2</sup>.

Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) is an Authorised Site under MoD regulation; Authorisation is a process akin to licensing under the Nuclear Installations Act. Statutory regulators have roles under general health, safety and environmental legislation, and DNSR Inspectors work closely with them; this report should be read in conjunction with theirs. The report is made available to members of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group. Where possible, a DNSR Inspector will attend Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised. Additionally, DNSR Inspectors may be contacted at their offices at Abbey Wood, Bristol.

**PERIOD OF THIS REPORT**

1. This report covers the quarterly reporting period from 1 Apr 2021 to 30 June 2021.

**ROUTINE MATTERS**

2. Routine visits to the Site are made for the purpose of undertaking pre-planned examinations of the adequacy of safety management, examinations of Authorisation Condition (AC) compliance or compliance with other regulations or attending formal meetings with Site management or their representatives.
3. During this period, no routine visits were made to Vulcan NRTE by DNSR due to COVID-19 restrictions. Regular weekly MoD Net Skype meetings with the Naval Superintendent Vulcan (NSV) have been established and remain in place.
  - a. **9 April 21** – Remote L3RIF meeting to discuss the Head of Establishment role and delineation of safety responsibilities at Vulcan NRTE;
  - b. **12 April 21** – Remote L3RIF meeting to discuss setting up a forum where the working relationship between MOD, NDA, and the Statutory Regulator can be developed and strengthened on Vulcan Site Decommissioning;
  - c. **14 Apr 21** – Planned remote Authorisation Condition 26 Inspection (Control and Supervision of Operations);
  - d. **18 May 21** – Planned remote Authorisation Condition 26 Inspection (Instructions to Persons on the Site).

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<sup>1</sup> Comprising the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme (NNPP) and the Nuclear Weapon Programme (NWP).

<sup>2</sup> The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment Agency (EA) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

## PERMISSION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

4. DNSR undertook formal regulatory assessment of the Vulcan DSMP1 Pond Fuel Removal Safety Case submitted by Vulcan NRTE and considers that it demonstrates and complies with the safety objectives appropriate to support removal of fuel from the site. DNSR has not placed any regulatory enforcement actions on NSV in this quarter.

## NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

5. One Event Report has been raised by NSV since the last meeting informing DNSR in accordance with the regulatory reporting criteria. This was for skin contamination detected on the hand of a health physics monitor during STF defuel preparation work. The source of contamination is understood and contained. A Site investigation is ongoing to prevent recurrence.

< Signed on Original >

DNSR IFR-b

13 Jul 2021

Distribution: (Indicates\* by e-mail)

External:

NSV, Vulcan NRTE\*

Dounreay Stakeholder Group\*

ONR Site Inspector\*

NRPA (IAM)\*

SEPA\*

Jacobs RSD\*

Internal:

DNS NPR\*

DNSR IFR\*