

VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT**DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT****1 July 2021 to 30 September 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 Enterprise¹ 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 regulators².

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 Jul 2021 to 30 Sept 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, 3 routine visits were made to Vulcan NRTE by DNSR. Regular weekly MoD Net Skype meetings with NSV have been established and remain in place due to COVID 19 restriction.
 - a. **27 & 28 Jul 21** – DNSR planned Site visit. This was an opportunity to conduct a walk round of Vulcan NRTE Facilities and to conduct a Level 3 Regulatory Interface Forum meeting;
 - b. **24 Aug 21** – Annual Review of Safety. This provides an opportunity for the Vulcan NRTE Authorisee to present an overview of nuclear safety compliance arrangements across the Vulcan NRTE Site to the Head of DNSR;

¹ Comprising the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme (NNPP) and the Nuclear Weapon Programme (NWP).

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

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- c. **21 & 22 Sept 21** – Authorisation Condition 21 (Commissioning) Readiness Inspection to inform the permissioning of Fuel Management Operations.

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PERMISSION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

4. DNSR has not granted permission for any new activities during this quarter. DNSR has not placed any regulatory enforcement actions on the Naval Superintendent in this quarter.

NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

5. No Non-Routine matters were raised during this period.

< Signed on Original >

DNSR IFR-b

13 Oct 21

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*

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