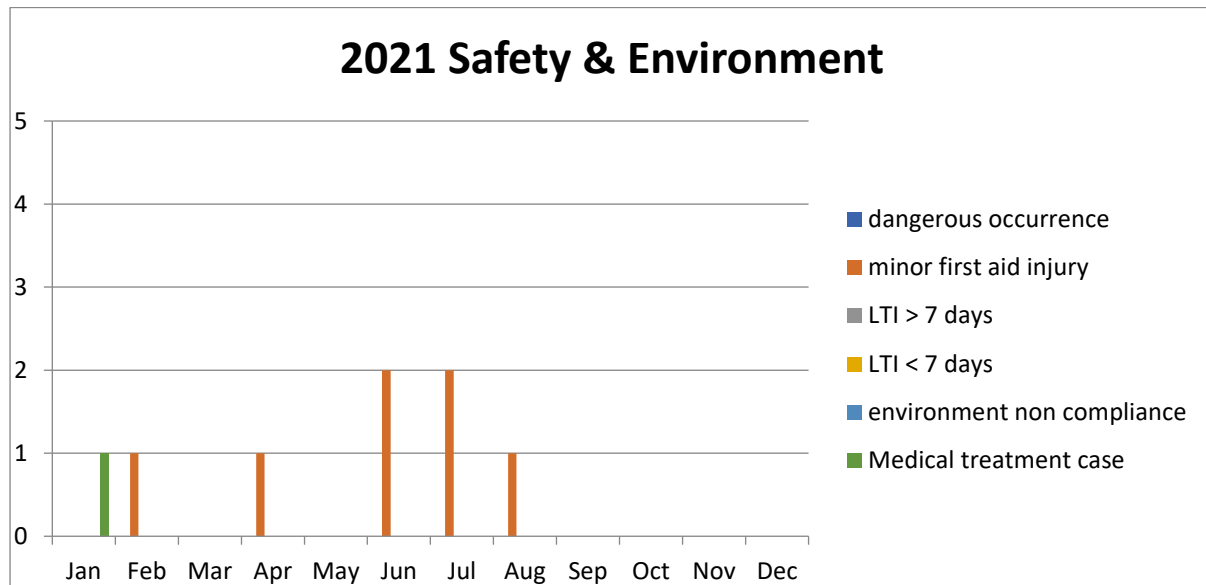


VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – October 2021**Health and Safety/COVID-19**

2 minor injuries were reported in July due to minor bruising to wrist and a shoulder dislocation (no abnormal movement - recurrent injury)

1 minor injury was reported in August due to a minor bump to head

The site continues as an on-site distribution hub for LFD home test kits. Work continues on the wider return to site of both RR and MOD staff who have been working from home, whilst keeping within UK, Scottish Government and MOD guidance.

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

Environment

There have been no challenges to the Approval of Arrangements (AoA) limits during this period.

Radioactive Waste Disposal

At the end of September, 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.	21.5%

	Type	Percentage
Liquid	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.04%
	Tritium	0.15%
Solid	Other Radionuclides	0.001%

Shore Test Facility Programme

Preparations to commence defuel of the STF reactor have continued to progress with further internally assessed practical demonstrations completed covering fuel transfer into the pond. Final modifications, equipment commissioning and documentation are close to completion with DNSR having undertaken an on-site defuel readiness inspection on 21/22 September. Lifting of DNSR's regulatory hold point to allow defuel to commence awaits completion of Facility Readiness.

DSMP1 Pond Fuel Removal

The modifications to enable despatch of used fuel from the DSMP1 Pond have progressed and various commissioning trials undertaken. Team training has been undertaken and both internal and independent external assessments of dummy fuel moves will be undertaken soon. Team Leaders and their deputies are undergoing formal oral boards to judge their knowledge of the full fuel moves process.

Events

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

Emergency Arrangements

The site undertook a COVID risk assessed, internally monitored nuclear emergency response exercise on 29 September with a near full complement of the Vulcan Emergency Control Centre. After a preceding series of 'out of hours' reduced complement exercises and training tabletops, the opportunity to undertake a higher occupancy proving exercise was valuable, particularly for myself as Authorisee to both undertake an exercise as Incident Commander and to gain confidence that the arrangements remain effective with the people involved at the required competence whilst working effectively as a team.

Regulatory Inspections / Audits

DNSR have now been able to resume on-site visits and have conducted a Level 3 Regulatory Interface Forum on 28 August, the Annual Review of Safety on 24/25 September and the previously mentioned defuel readiness inspection. A SEPA inspection was satisfactorily conducted on site on 8 September and the Defence Nuclear Security Regulator undertook an inspection from 20 – 22 Sep.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

Commodore Prince gave a substantial decommissioning update to the Dounreay Stakeholder Group on 22 September which was centred around Social Value. DSG(2021)C043 and the meeting minutes refer.

Other

On 7 September the Site Safety Committee held its first on-site meeting with external members present since March 2020; there remained a hybrid element to this with some remote attendees, but the ability to question those presenting in real time was welcome and the opportunity was taken for my deputy, Lt Cdr Chisholm, to Chair the meeting (with myself overseeing).

Over 13 – 14 October, a number of site personnel from both MOD and Rolls-Royce took part in the biennial Submarine Safety Symposium which was held in an online virtual format with presentations and workshops from across the UK submarine enterprise. As an event which looks to bring together personnel from across industry, naval bases and submarines, it seeks to share and debate current and historical lessons with a particular emphasis this year on sustainability.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Cleminson" with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

M D Cleminson
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan