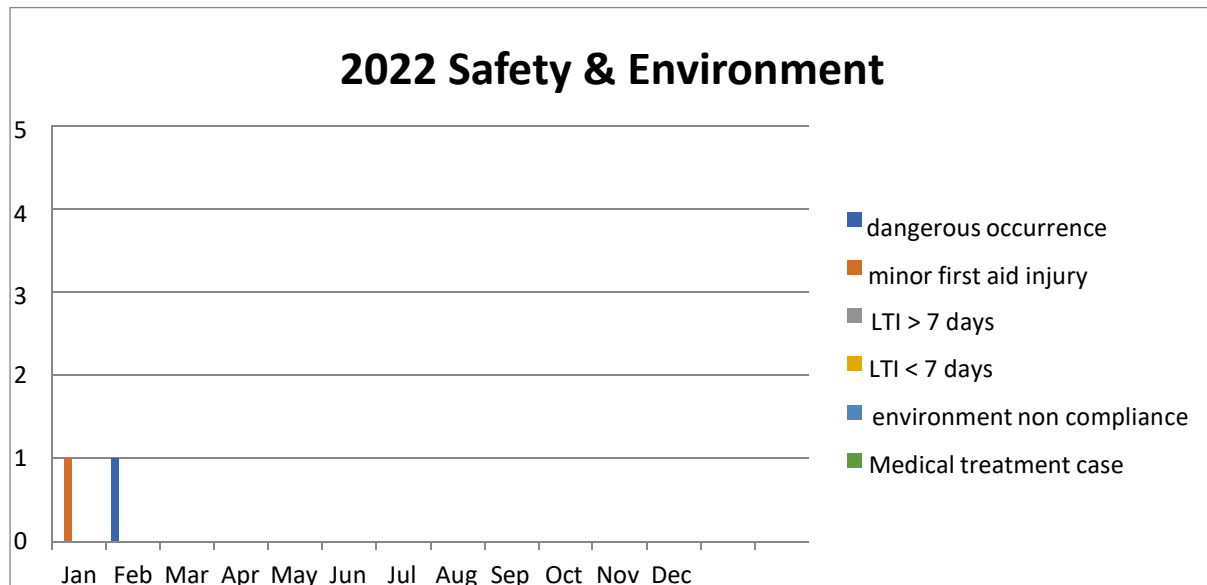


VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – April 2022**Health and Safety/COVID-19**

1 minor first aid case reported in January – Contractor - cut on finger

1 High Potential Event in February – Steam leak in the MCP Test Bed (not reportable event to either DNSR/ONR).

The site continues to comply with extant UK, Scottish Government and MOD COVID-19 guidance. Though in line with both UK and Scottish Government policy we are in the process of determining and implementing what ‘Living with COVID’ means for Vulcan; and have started a phased reduction of COVID mitigations measures. We will also shortly halt being an on-site distribution hub for LFD home test kits.

Whilst we are reducing mitigation measures and noting the legal requirement for self-isolation has been removed we are emphasising to all at Vulcan that if they display any symptoms of COVID – or indeed any other contagious illness – they should not come to site and self-isolate at home.

The spike in cases of COVID-19 locally has led to an increased number of individuals both contracting the virus and managing family isolations. Indications however, are that this is driven by community transmission, rather than on-site contact. This has not impacted our ability to maintain a safe and secure site or deliver the programme.

Vulcan 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 March, 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.	19.2%
Liquid	Cobalt 60	0.08%
	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.2%
	Tritium	0.001%
Solid	No waste sent off site	n/a

Shore Test Facility Programme

Defuel continues, with good progress made.

Encountered dose rates have been significantly lower than expected, and the hazards managed well.

DSMP1 Pond Fuel Removal

This programme of works is progressing well; half of the fuel has been removed from the pond and placed in a Used Fuel Flask, ready to be removed from site. Once the flask has been returned after unloading, the remainder will be loaded for shipment.

Events

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

Emergency Arrangements

The planning and preparation for the externally assessed annual security exercise has commenced. This will be held in June this year.

Exercise LONESTAR, the site's annual nuclear emergency response demonstration, will once again be held in November.

Regulatory Inspections / Audits

DNSR undertook a routine inspection 22/23 March for compliance to AC34, the report is yet to be issued, but at the debrief no concerns were raised.

SEPA undertook their Annual Review of Safety for Vulcan on 12 January – no concerns were raised and the inspection went well.

The Defence Nuclear Security Regulator undertook a routine inspection 5-7 April for compliance to DSC6 (Management of Accountable Nuclear Material). Some observations were made, but none of significance, with mainly positive comments given.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

As announced at the DSG Public meeting, a joint team is being stood up to develop the option of transfer the liability for decommissioning to NDA. The first meeting of the team is scheduled for next week. We will of course provide updates to the DSG as appropriate.

A new Decommissioning Programme lead (Mr Glenn Dawkins) is being appointed and is scheduled to start in May.

Other

As announced at the public meeting I took over from Cdr Mark Cleminson on 4 March, coincidentally this aligned with Wendy Newton moving to a new role with the Submarine Delivery Agency (SDA). Wendy is not being replaced directly, the project roles she undertook are being transferred to individuals based at Abbey Wood, with myself taking back the responsibility of Head of Establishment and DSG Lead. This reverts the arrangements to those when Cdr Ken Dyke was in post.

I Walker
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan