

## VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT

## DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT

1 Jan 2022 to 31 Mar 2022

## 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 Jan 2021 to 31 Mar 2022.

## 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, 2 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. 23 Mar 22** – Regulatory Interface Meetings to discuss the Timeline Extension of Vulcan NRTE Periodic Review of Safety (PRS) period from the end of 2022 to the end of 2025 and the PRS Assessment Report submission date. This meeting also included discussion on Project SALTUS to understand the handover of the Vulcan NRTE Site to the NDA;

**b. 24 Mar 22** – Themed intervention focused in on visiting and reviewing the management arrangements under AC 34 (Leakage and Escape of Radioactive Material and Radioactive Waste) of the Vulcan Decontamination Waste Treatment Facility.

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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 has not placed any regulatory enforcement action on the Naval Superintendent Vulcan in this quarter.

**NON-ROUTINE MATTERS**

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

< Signed on Original >

DNSR IFR-b

25 Apr 2022

Distribution: (Indicates\* by e-mail)

Internal:

DNSR NPR\*

DNSR IFR\*

External:

NSV, Vulcan NRTE\*

Dounreay Stakeholder Group\*

ONR Site Inspector\*

NRPA (IAM)\*

SEPA\*

Jacobs RSD\*