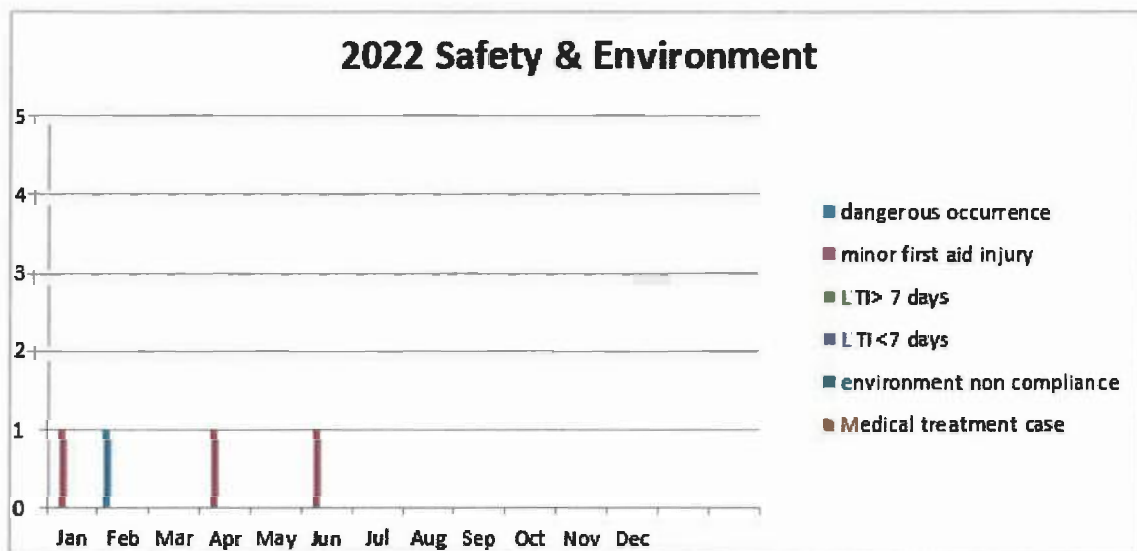


VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – July 2022**Health and Safety/COVID-19**

1 minor first aid case reported in April – employee – recurrent back spasm.

1 minor first aid case reported in June – employee – cut to finger.

1 personnel minor contamination event reported in June – employee – very small area of loose contamination (below -reportable levels to DNSR/ONR)

Whilst we have reduced 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 recent surge 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. The site continues to provide LFD home test kits (whilst we have stocks).

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 June, 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.	17.7%
Liquid	Cobalt 60	0.07%
	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.15%
	Tritium	0.0004%
Solid	No waste sent off site	n/a

Shore Test Facility Programme

Defuel continues, with good progress made.

Encountered dose rates remain low, and the hazards are being managed. However, during routine defuel operations we had one instance of a person being contaminated. They were working in an area where contamination was a higher risk and were appropriately dressed. The contamination was identified by the installed monitoring equipment. The dose uptake from this contamination was below reportable levels and the individual was decontaminated (it was only in one very small location) following standard site processes.

DSMP1 Pond Fuel Removal

This programme has progressed well. Once the flask is 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.

The contamination of the individual was reported to DNSR as a courtesy.

Emergency Arrangements

The externally assessed annual security exercise was held last month. Whilst we await the formal report from the external assessors, our internal assessment and the initial (verbal) feedback from the assessors suggests that it was a satisfactory demonstration of our arrangements, and all aims were successfully achieved. As always, a few minor learning points were identified, and these will be taken forward.

Planning for Exercise LONESTAR, the site's annual nuclear emergency response demonstration, will be held in November, and planning is underway.

Regulatory Inspections / Audits

DNSR undertook a themed inspection on 8 June for compliance to AC15 (Periodic Review of Safety), the report is yet to be issued, but at the debrief no concerns were raised.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

The joint team is now operational, and a programme, and work scope is being developed that would enable a decision to be taken by both parties. Whilst the programme and work scope is developed, discussions between parties have continued and some activities have commenced.

The new Decommissioning Programme lead (Mr Glenn Dawkins) has been in post since May and is visiting site next week.

Other

I have settled into my tenure as NSV and HoE at Vulcan and now have Lt Cdr Phil Alexander as my deputy, he replaced Lt Cdr Dave Chisholm in June. This is Phil's second draft to Vulcan having served here previously in 2008/09.



I Walker
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan

