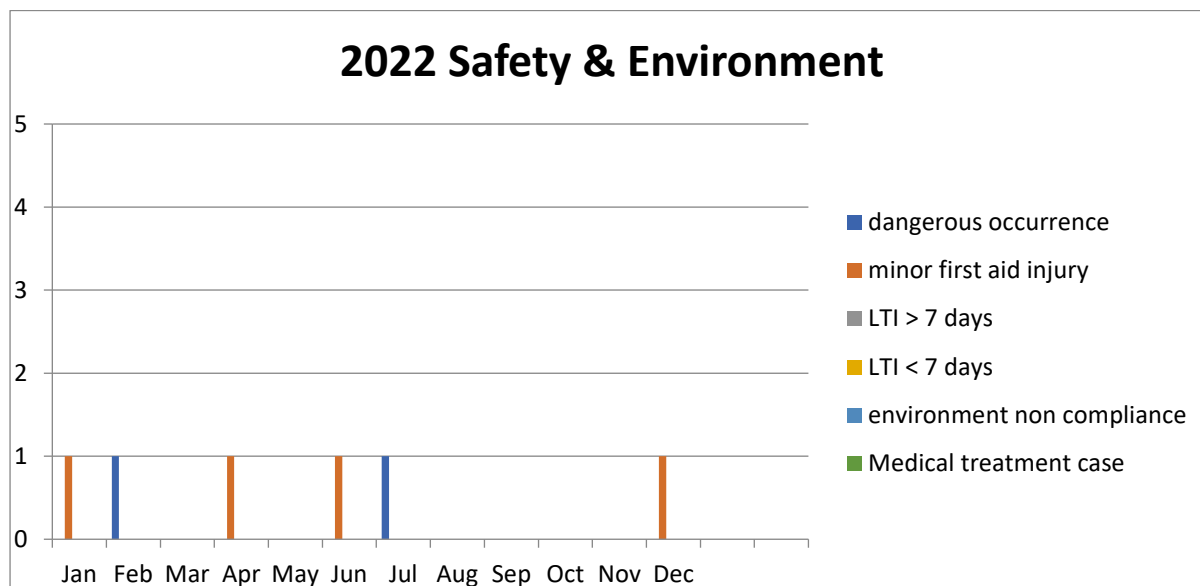


VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – January 2023



Health and Safety/COVID-19

1 minor injury in December – employee cut to hand.

Whilst we have reduced COVID 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 investigation into the RIDDOR occurrence earlier in the year has now been completed. This included briefing ONR when they were onsite for the planned inspection in December. The crane has been returned to service.

Environment

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

We have had 1 breach of our Conventional discharge permits. In early December the pump for the pH neutralising system suffered a defect. The neutralising system chemically treats the boiler effluent to ensure it is at the correct pH before discharge into the sea. Thus a small volume of effluent with high pH was discharged. Action was taken to stop further discharge, and the defect rectified once a replacement part had been received. This was reported to SEPA, with no further action being required.

Radioactive Waste Disposal

At the end of November, 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. | 16.8% |
| Liquid | Cobalt 60 | 0.14% |
| | All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together. | 0.22% |
| | Tritium | 0.002% |
| Solid | No waste sent off site | N/A |

Shore Test Facility Programme

Defuel has now completed.

The support equipment for defuel has been dismantled and removal from site has commenced. Where there are other areas of the submarine enterprise that would benefit from this equipment, there is a process in place to ensure it is re-used.

Preparations for the next stage of operations and fuel management activities within the STF are ongoing and to schedule.

Events

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

Emergency Arrangements

Exercise LONESTAR, the site's annual nuclear emergency response demonstration, was carried out in December. The initial assessment by the Regulators was that it was an adequate demonstration of our arrangements. As would be expected our self-assessment identified a few minor areas for improvement. This was a demonstration of our on-site arrangements only. The off-site arrangements were demonstrated through the Dounreay exercise earlier in the year.

Planning for the annual security response demonstration exercise in Jun 23 has now commenced.

Regulatory Inspections / Audits

The DefNucSyR undertook a compliance audit for DSC 13. No issues were identified.

A recent routine inspection of our arrangements for Ionising Radiation Regulations (IRR) and Carriage of Dangerous Goods (CDG) by ONR identified some shortfalls in our ability to demonstrate compliance with the Regulations. This resulted in ONR raising a Regulatory Issue. An improvement plan is required to be presented to ONR early in the New Year. This is on track and a date has been arranged with ONR.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

The Joint Project Team has continued to investigate the feasibility of the transfer of the decommissioning liability of Vulcan to the NDA. A number of workstreams have been progressed over the past few months, support as required by Vulcan. These are nearing completion and will provide the evidence for the decision making.

A workshop with the Regulators was held late last year, this was a very positive engagement, with a number of points raised for further investigation and discussion. This was part of the workstream to determine how the transfer from a Military to Civilian regulator regime would be implemented.

Other

The role of the Head of the Nuclear Propulsion Project Team (for whom I work) has recently been assumed by Cdre Elton Sharkey. His predecessor Cdre Mark Prince retires from the Royal Navy shortly. Cdre Prince worked at Vulcan as a junior officer and still retains very fond memories of the area and people. I sure you will join me in wishing him all the best for the future. Cdre Sharkey is expected to visit Vulcan for the first time in the next couple of months

I Walker
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan