

VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – April 2023



Health and Safety

1 minor injury in February – Individual Contractor was blown off his feet during a period of high winds.

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.	17.5%
Liquid	Cobalt 60	0.17%
	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.26%
	Tritium	0.002%
Solid	No waste sent off site	N/A

Shore Test Facility Programme

The support equipment used during defuel has been dismantled and significant amounts have now been removed from site. 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 progressing to schedule and it is anticipated that permission to commence operations will be granted in the very near future.

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

The annual Security demonstration exercise is being held on 1 June, with the detailed planning now in progress. As an early warning the Site alarms will be sounded and there is likely to be sounds of gunfire and explosions during this exercise. Further details, as always, will be provided through the local press closer to the exercise.

Regulatory Inspections / Audits

The Vulcan ONR inspector team has been changed from the propulsion division to the Decommissioning, Fuel and Waste division. The new inspection team undertook a familiarisation visit on 23 March, which positive feedback was received. The ONR have also provide Vulcan with their intentions for inspections for the remainder of this year.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

The Joint Project Team has continued with assessing the feasibility of the transfer of the decommissioning liability of Vulcan to the NDA. With the current focus on undertaking assurance activities on the assessment completed so far. As reported previously, workstreams are also progressing on a number of other fronts, including on determining the mechanics of how a change in Regulatory regime would be enacted and the planning for preparing Vulcan for a transfer.

A follow-up workshop with the Regulators was held last week, this was principally to provide an update on the work completed. Once again, the engagement was very positive and again points raised which for consideration of further investigation and discussion.

Other

The Site will again this year implement a 'no May mow' in some areas, though actually these areas will receive reduced mowing throughout the Summer. This is to increase the biodiversity on Site. The trial last year was deemed to be a success.

The RN contingent will once again be supporting the RNLI Summer Fayre which is scheduled for Saturday 3 June.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Walker'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the letters.

I Walker
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan

