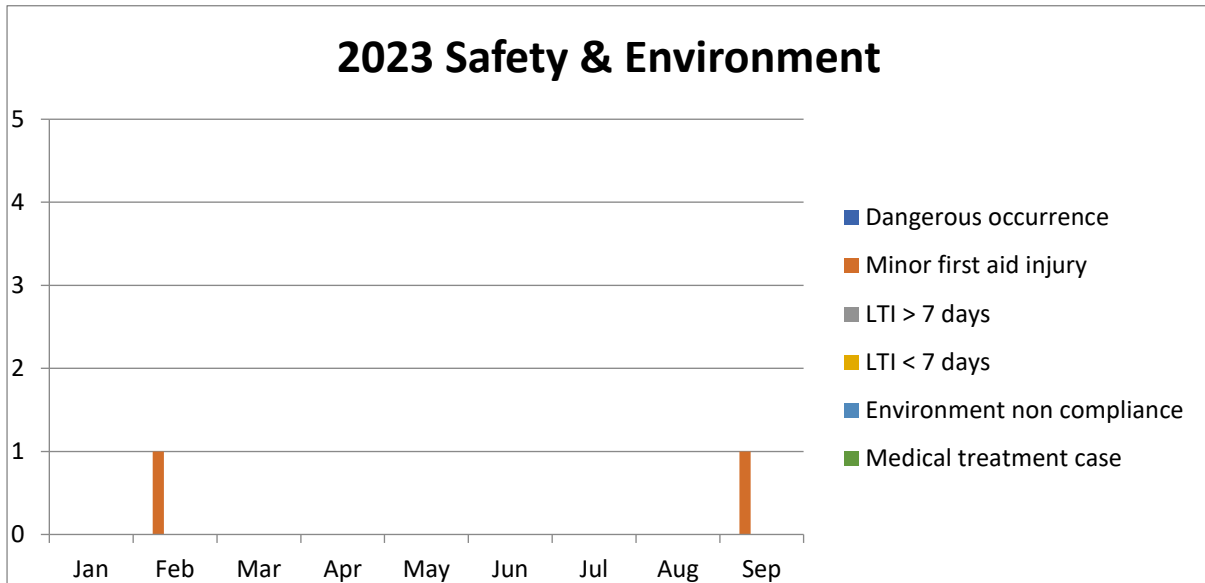


VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – October 2023**Health and Safety**

1 minor injury in October – head injury sustained during removal of wet wall.

1 ambulance on site – individual taken unwell whilst at work.

As briefed at the September public meeting, in accordance with the Safety Alert issued by the MoD infrastructure department, Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), we undertook measures to identify if Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) is present on the Vulcan Site. Vulcan have completed this work, which identified that RAAC is not present at Vulcan. ONR, as the lead Regulator for H&S at Vulcan, also placed a requirement on Vulcan to undertake an assessment to determine if RAAC is present and if so how the risks were being managed. ONR have been informed of the outcome of this workstream. It should be noted that the DIO issued the Safety Alert prior to the summer, and thus prior to the issues that RAAC can present being discussed in the mainstream media. We undertake regular detailed inspections of all the buildings at Vulcan as part of the maintenance schedule, thus it was highly unlikely that this work would have identified any issues, and was undertaken as a reassurance measure.

Environment

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

Radioactive Waste Disposal

At the end of August, 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.	17.9%
Liquid	Cobalt 60	0.15%
	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.23%
	Tritium	0.002%
Solid	No waste sent off site*	N/A

* For this report Solid waste refers to Low Level Waste (LLW) and Intermediate Level Waste (ILW). It does not include items assessed to be Out of Scope (OoS) from radioactive waste regulations (proven not to be radioactive but created in a radiation-controlled area). Approximately 600 bags of OoS waste were sent to an appropriate waste facility during this period.

Shore Test Facility Programme

Operations have continued, and whilst we have experienced some minor delays the overall programme remains on schedule.

The Site has continued to undertake the commissioning and revalidation of the additional equipment that will be required for the next phase of operations.

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

Planning for Exercise LONESTAR, the site's annual nuclear emergency response demonstration is in the final stages. The demonstration exercise will be held on 23 November 2023, with a training exercise on 25 October 2023. These exercises will mainly be confined within the Vulcan site, and thus minimal, if any, disruption is expected in the local area, though the warning sirens will be sounded. As always further information will be provided in the local press nearer to the event.

Regulatory Inspections / Audits

The Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator Head (DNSR-Hd), David Langbridge, visited Vulcan on Tuesday 22 August 2023 to observe the Annual Review of Safety (ARoS) and to conduct a tour of the Shore Test Facility (STF). DNSR-Hd was accompanied by Paul Jessop (DNSR Nuclear Propulsion Regulator), James Bryson (DNSR Site Inspector) and supported by DNSR's Regulatory Support Directorate (RSD).

James Bryson (DNSR Site Inspector), again supported by RSD, completed a Compliance Inspection on Tuesday 12 September 2023. The Inspection assessed the adequacy and implementation of the Site Authorisee's arrangements for AC14 – Safety Documentation. The verbal debrief raised no issues of concern; we await the formal report.

Darren Cummings (Radiological Protection Specialist Inspector), supported by Richard Faris (Principal Inspector of Nuclear Safety) and Gideon York (Professional Lead in Operational Inspection), of ONR attended site on Tuesday 19 September 2023 and carried out a planned compliance inspection of Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17). This visit was also to review the progress made against the Regulatory Issue (RI) that was raised late last year (this issue has previously been reported to the DSG). The verbal debrief raised no issues of concern, but did request further documentation be provided (some of which had been shown during the visit); we await the report.

Melanie Hayes (Vulcan SEPA Site Inspector), supported by Stewart Ballantine (SEPA Radioactive Substances Manager), came to site on Thursday 21 September 2023 and conducted a planned inspection of our arrangements for management and reporting of gaseous discharge. The verbal debrief raised no issues of concern, and we await the formal report.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

The joint project team has continued to assess where responsibility for decommissioning Vulcan should best sit and to confirm the viability of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority taking ownership of the site.

The joint project team have completed their initial work which is now being considered within UK Government.

We recognise the strong local community interest in this issue and are committed to keeping the DSG up to date on progress.

A further Regulator engagement session, similar to those held previously, is scheduled for the last week in October.

Other

Site held a family's day on 2 September, an opportunity for families to come and see the site and discover what their sons, daughters, mums, dads etc. actually do. The weather was unusually kind on the day and over 400 people took the opportunity to visit the site. My children loved sitting in the office and calling each other on the telephones! All I spoke to said what an enjoyable day they were having.

I Walker
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan