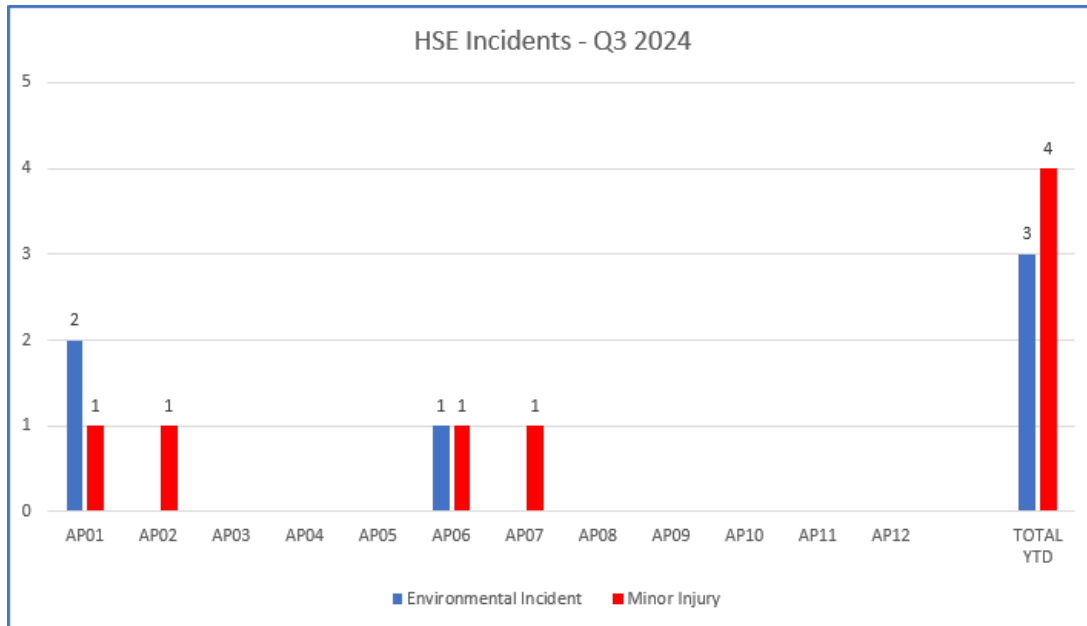


**VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – October 2024****Health and Safety**

There have been no Lost Time Accidents/reportable events since my last report to the Sub-Group, however we have had 1 minor injury. This was a finger injury caused by a burr from a new piece of equipment being commissioned.

Please note that the graph is taken from a Rolls-Royce management system and AP stands for Accounting Period; with AP01 effectively aligning with January, AP02 aligning with February so forth.

**Environment**

There have been no environmental events since my last update to the subgroup.

The modifications to increase the redundancy within the Site steam heating boilers discharge system have been installed and commissioned. These were identified as appropriate mitigation from the investigation into an event where boiler effluent was discharged out of specification for pH.

**Radioactive Waste Disposal**

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

At the end of July 2024, the annual rolling discharge (expressed as a percentage against the maximum detailed in the SEPA letter of agreement) was:

	Type	Percentage
<b>Gaseous</b>	Noble Gases	0%
	Other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	9.9%
<b>Liquid</b>	Cobalt 60	0.04%
	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.05%
	Tritium	0.00%
<b>Solid</b>	No waste sent off site	N/A

During the recent SEPA inspection, the non-conformances raised during the previous inspection and work Site had undertaken to address them were reviewed and discussed. The errors that Site had subsequently identified following that SEPA inspection in Sept 23 were also presented and discussed.

Whilst we await SEPA formal notification of the actions they will require the Site to undertake, it is understood this will likely be a correction of the monthly reports which contain errors. As previously reported to the DSG the errors identified do not challenge compliance with the discharge limits, and in most instances have resulted in over-reporting of the discharges. Further, the errors have arisen from the calculations used to present the information in the correct format, and not from the sampling system.

The non-conformances raised in the Sept 23 inspection remain open, route to closure will be detailed in the SEPA report that will be issued following this latest inspection.

### Site Programme

Commissioning and revalidation of the required equipment for the next phase of operations has completed, together with the associated training. With these operations being subject to a Regulatory Hold Point a DNSR Operational Readiness Inspection was successfully undertaken. Thus, the next phase of operations was commenced early October in line with the schedule.

The remainder of the Site programme progresses 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**

The report from the LONESTAR annual nuclear emergency response demonstration was received from DNSR, there was 6 learning points identified, as previously articulated work to address these has already commenced.

## **Regulatory Inspections / Audits**

Recently we undertook the DNSR Annual Review of Safety (ARoS), which for the first time was observed by ONR. Unfortunately, the new Head of DNSR could not attend due a late notice flight cancellation, thus the ARoS was presented to the DNSR Propulsion Regulator. The intention is for the new Head of DNSR to visit Vulcan before Christmas.

In September DNSR conducted an Operational Readiness Inspection this was assessed as satisfactory, DNSR has lifted the regulatory hold point for the next phase of operations.

We have been informed that Alexandra Pitsillos will take over from Richard Faris as the ONR Lead Site Inspector for Vulcan. A Site familiarisation is planned in the next few days to support that handover.

On Thursday 26 September, Vulcan hosted a SEPA Radioactive Substances inspection. The focus of the inspection was to review the site solid active waste processes and records. We are currently awaiting the inspection summary report from SEPA, though no areas of concern were identified to Site during the inspection.

## **Vulcan Decommissioning Programme**

The Joint Project Team continues to progress the workstreams to enable the transfer to the NDA at a suitable point. The focus remains on developing the submissions required for the applications for the Nuclear Site License and SEPA permits.

## **Other**

The MoD team at Vulcan will be supporting the upcoming November ceremonies, and Rolls-Royce will be replacing the planters around the Thurso War Memorial, as part of their community engagement programme, before Remembrance Sunday.

I Walker  
Commander Royal Navy  
Naval Superintendent Vulcan