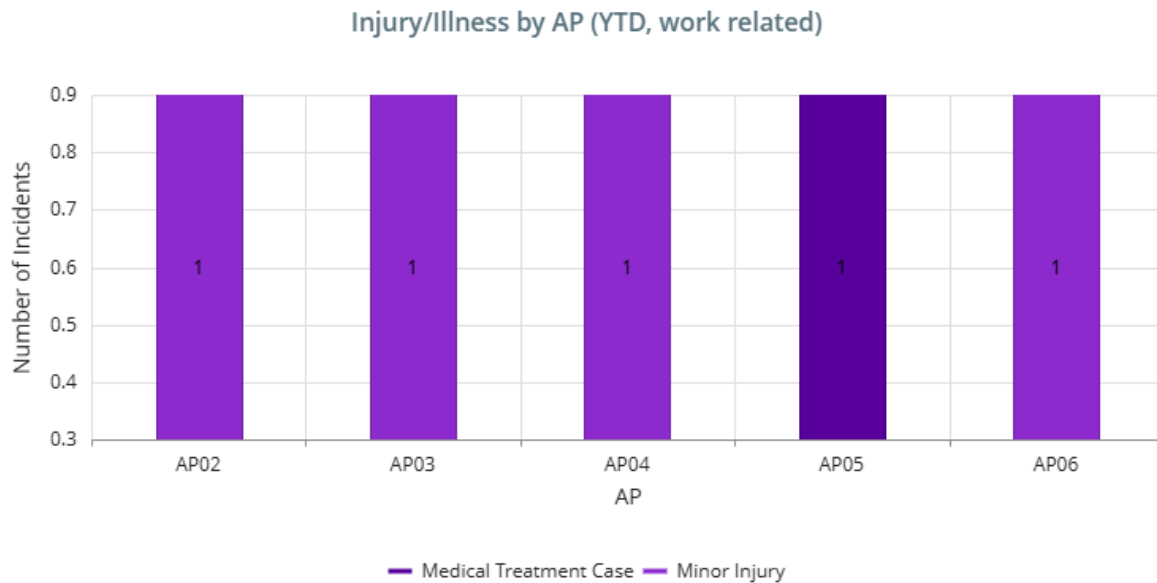


VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – July 2025



Health and Safety -

Since last report to the DSG subgroup, Vulcan has had no reportable events, however unfortunately we have had one lost time accident, which was a medical treatment case and 2 minor injuries, since the last written report.

- **April (AP04)** - Minor Cut injury – Individual scraped hand on a door snib. The individual suffered a very minor cut to their finger and returned to work after first aid treatment.
- **May (AP05)** – Medical Treatment Case Injury (Lost Time Injury) – individual sustained a cut to their hand from sharp piece of metal while changing a filter insert. Individual required transfer to Caithness general hospital and received three stitches.
- **June (AP06)** – Minor Injury – Individual sustained cut to two fingers while working with sheet metal due to contact with a sharp edge prior to the deburring process. Onsite first aid treatment was required, and individual returned to work.

Environment

A defect has occurred with the new sewage flowmeter that means that the flowmeter was recording falsely high readings for sewage discharge, with the flow level not returning to zero when the flow volume measuring cycle begins. A temporary fix has been made thus the flowmeter is now recording the discharge, but with an offset (effectively it is over-recording the discharge). We are engaging with the equipment supplier to determine why this is the case and identify how to resolve the issues and

return the equipment back to design intent. As stated the meter was measuring volumes that were higher than actual, but these volumes remain within the limits specified in our discharge licence.

Work continues to install an email notification capability to the sewage emergency overflow so that site is notified if the overflow is triggered, in accordance with our SEPA licence.

Work also continues to resolve the other non-conformances discovered during the internal review of the conventional discharge permits. This included submitting the application for a Pollution Prevention and Control Permit for our Medium Combustion Plant (the Site Heating System Boilers) and anticipate the decision on this application will be made by SEPA before the planned date for switching on the boilers for winter 2025/26.

Radioactive Waste Disposal

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

At the end of May 2025, 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.	2.35%
Liquid	Cobalt 60	0.008%
	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.013%
	Tritium	0.000%
Solid	No of Drums sent to date	125 Drums

Vulcan continues to transfer drums containing solid Low-Level Waste (LLW) to Dounreay, with 36 drums being transferred in May.

Work continues to address the : (a) produce a new reporting tool, (b) review the gaseous discharge sampling methodology, and (c) review and correct historic discharge records. We have recently issued the second formal update to SEPA, and

in early July we will host a visit from the SEPA inspector in early July to provide a more detailed update.

In May, we hosted a visit from SEPA to discuss the new EA(S)R 18 style permit which will replace our current RSA 93 style permit. Whilst the discharge limits are not changing for the new permit, there are changes in methods for calculating the discharges and some changes to the technicalities, thus we are currently assessing what changes, if any we need to make to our arrangements to be compliant with the new permit when issued.

Site Programme

The Data collection phase of the site programme continues as scheduled. Along with this work, we continue with the development of the processes and equipment 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

This year's nuclear emergency demonstration, LONESTAR 25, has been completed, whilst we await the formal reports the verbal debrief given by the Regulators was that it was an Adequate demonstration of the arrangements. It was a combined Level 1 and Level 2 demonstration; close co-operation was achieved with NRS Dounreay and the Highland Council; which for the first time had involved incidents on both the Vulcan and Dounreay sites. Whilst we await the formal reports from the Regulators we will progress reviewing of the internal assessment, which as always identified areas for improvement.

Regulatory Inspections / Audits

On Thursday 03 July, Vulcan hosted a visit from SEPA, the focus of the visit was to provide an update on the work to address the issues with the historic records, the development of the new reporting tool and the review of the gaseous sampling methodology.

During this reporting period, there have been no regulatory inspections with DNSR. However, DNSR visited site to assess the onsite aspects of the LONESTAR demonstration exercise.

Planning has begun for the Annual Review of Safety with DNSR Hd, which is scheduled in the next period.

Tom Eagleton the new Superintending Inspector (ONR) Visited site for a familiarisation visit allowing an opportunity to meet key people and the site safety representatives.

The Defence Fire Safety Regulator are scheduled to conduct a Fire Safety inspection in the next period.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

The Site continues with the hazard reduction programme, identifying and removing redundant equipment from site. More items have been identified for removal and other parts of the enterprise have expressed an interest in repurposing some rigs that have been identified as no longer required to site.

Other

Vulcan supported the annual RNLI Summer Fayre at Scrabster Harbour along with the Armed Forces Day event at the Legion. The site has also volunteered to refurbish one of the benches donated by the old Vulcan Warrant Officers and Seniors Rates Mess.

I Walker
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan