



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Dounreay

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd - Dounreay

Report for period: 1 April – 30 June 2025

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: DFW Delivery Lead

Issue: 1

Published: July 2025

Record reference: 2025/24716

Foreword

This report is issued as part of our commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/lcsvg-reports.

Our site inspectors usually attend Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact us via email at contact@onr.gov.uk.

Contents

- 1. Inspections 4
- 2. Routine matters 5
- 3. Non-routine matters 7
- 4. Regulatory activity 8
- 5. News from ONR 9
- 6. Contacts 9

1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

Our site inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period
1 April to 30 June 2025:

- 20 to 22 May 2025
- 3 to 4 June 2025

2. Routine matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- The Energy Act 2013;
- Regulations made under the Energy Act 2013, for example the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 and the Nuclear Safeguards (EU Exit) Regulations 2019;
- The conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- Regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect legal compliance. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of the Dounreay site covered the following:

- Dounreay arrangements for compliance with pressure systems safety regulations 2000 (PSSR): the inspection was rated green (adequate), although observations were raised around condition of localised parts of the site steam system and on clarity of ownership of parts of pressure systems.
- Alkali metals storage and handling inspection: the purpose of this intervention was to confirm adequate implementation of Dounreay's current arrangements for storage of alkali metals and measures implemented to address compliance gaps identified in the ONR improvement notice. Based on the evidence sampled during the inspection ONR judged that the short-term improvements made to the current storage arrangements are adequate to ensure safe storage of the material until a new store is available.
- Consideration of site's emergency arrangements via observation of site's Level 1 demonstration exercise: based on the ONR inspection team's observations, we considered that this was an adequate demonstration of Dounreay's emergency arrangements.

- Consideration of NRS Dounreay's protective security arrangements to ensure the site has a proportionate physical protection system integrating technical and procedural controls to form layers of security.

Members of the public who would like further information on our inspection activities during the reporting period can view site inspection records on our website:

www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records.

In addition, ONR remains informed of all major site activities that may affect nuclear safety, security and conventional health and safety and continues to undertake proportionate assessment activities necessary to support the release of regulatory hold-points placed on a number of the projects on site.

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other work

The ONR site inspectors continue to conduct formal quarterly reviews of the site's progress in delivering a number of agreed improvement activities. Topics include:

- Development of arrangements to control major chemical accident hazards, as sought by the COMAH legislation;
- Dounreay's asset management arrangements;
- Alkali metal storage and disposal arrangements;
- Electrical safety;
- Asbestos management and safety;
- Establishing appropriate waste routes for hazardous waste materials; and
- Reporting and investigation of incidents and organisational learning.

During the reporting period, ONR site inspectors held meetings with safety representatives to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety, and welfare at work.

3. Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. Our inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

There were no such matters or events of significance during the period.

4. Regulatory activity

We may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, we issue regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken. These are usually collectively termed licence instruments but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

- On 6 February 2025, members of NRS Dounreay's transport team attempted to remove a small items monitor from the laundry facility. The small items monitor weighed approximately 1900 kg. While being manoeuvred, the monitor toppled over directly towards another employee not related to the task. The other employee narrowly avoided the falling object and sustained minor injuries.

Following ONR's consideration of NRS Dounreay's own site investigation and our own independent enquiries, ONR considered a breach of legislation occurred and issued NRS Dounreay with an improvement notice. The improvement notice requires NRS Dounreay to implement measures that will reduce the risk of similar occurrences in the future. We published a news item on our website about the improvement notice: [Nuclear Restoration Services issued with improvement notice](#).

- On 24 June 2025, ONR wrote to NRS Dounreay to confirm ONR considers improvement notice ONR-IN-23-3, relating to the storage of bulk alkali metals in two locations, to have been discharged. We published a news item on our website about the compliance: [Nuclear Restoration Services complies with improvement notice](#).

Further improvements are still sought to meet expectations for longer term storage of this material. For this NRS Dounreay has committed to the construction of a new storage facility. ONR has raised a new regulatory issue, which will be used to track progress through to the completion of the project covering the design, construction and operation of the new alkali metals storage facility.

5. News from ONR

For the latest updates and information on our work, please subscribe to our regular email newsletter, ONR News, at www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter.

6. Contacts

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS
Website: www.onr.org.uk
Email: contact@onr.gov.uk

This document is issued by ONR. For further information about us, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this publication, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

If you wish to reuse this information, please visit www.onr.org.uk/access-to-information/copyright for details.

For published documents, the electronic copy on our website remains the most current publicly available version and copying or printing renders this document uncontrolled.