

VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT

DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT

1 Jul 2025 to 30 Sept 2025

FOREWORD

This report is issued as part of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator's (DNSR's) commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Defence Nuclear Enterprise¹ available to the workforce and the public. The Secretary of State for Defence is answerable to Parliament for the safety of all defence activities; he has issued a Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Policy Statement requiring the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to comply with legislation, and where there are exemptions relating to defence activities, to make, so far as is practicable, arrangements at least as good as those required by legislation. DNSR is empowered to regulate nuclear and radiological safety in the Defence Nuclear Enterprise. This is achieved in a manner that complements and joins up with the work of statutory regulators².

Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) is an Authorised Site under MoD regulation; Authorisation is a process akin to licensing under the Nuclear Installations Act. Statutory regulators have roles under general health, safety and environmental legislation, and DNSR Inspectors work closely with them; this report should be read in conjunction with theirs. The report is made available to members of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group. Where possible, a DNSR Inspector will attend Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised. Additionally, DNSR Inspectors may be contacted at their offices at Abbey Wood, Bristol.

PERIOD OF THIS REPORT

1. This report covers the quarterly reporting period from 1 Jul 2025 to 30 Sept 2025.

ROUTINE MATTERS

2. Routine visits to the Site are made for the purpose of undertaking pre-planned examinations of the adequacy of safety management, examinations of Authorisation Condition (AC) compliance or compliance with other regulations and attending formal meetings with Site management or their representatives.
3. During this period, 2 visits were made to Vulcan NRTE by DNSR. Regular MoD NET MS Teams remote meetings with Naval Superintendent Vulcan (NSV) have been established and remain.
 - a. **27 - 28 Aug 25** – Vulcan NRTE Annual Review of Safety and DNSR-Head visit,
 - b. **16 Sept 25** – Joint DFSR and DNSR Site Fire Audit,

PERMISSION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

4. DNSR has not placed any regulatory enforcement action on NSV in this quarter.

¹ Comprising the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme (NNPP) and the Nuclear Weapon Programme (NWP).

² The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment Agency (EA) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

5. No Non-Routine matters were raised during this period.



DNSR IFR-b

3 Oct 2025

Distribution: (Indicates* by e-mail)

Internal:

DNSR NPR*

DNSR IFR*

External:

Dounreay Stakeholder Group*

NRPA (IAM)*

ONR (Vulcan Site Inspector) *