



ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Dounreay

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd - Dounreay

Report for period: 1 July – 30 September 2025

Authored by: Safety Inspector

Approved by: DFW Delivery Lead

Issue: 1

Published: November 2025

Record reference: 2025/39854

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/llcssg-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

References

9

1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

Our site inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period
1 July – 30 September 2025:

- No inspections took place within this period

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, interactions with Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS)-Dounreay covered the following:

- A workshop was conducted with NRS-Dounreay senior management to address the expectations of enhanced regulatory attention for safety and agree the way forward with regard to what needs to take place to move Dounreay back to routine regulatory attention.

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:

- We remain informed of all major site activities that may affect nuclear safety, security and conventional health & safety and will continue to undertake proportionate assessment activities necessary to support the release of regulatory hold-points placed on a number of the projects on site, as appropriate.

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

2.2. Other work

Our site inspectors continue to conduct formal 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 our 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.

We conducted an intervention on the current condition of Dounreay's electrical infrastructure and their long term strategy for returning this to modern standards and meeting the expected lifetime of the site.

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.

The following incidents were reported to ONR within this period:

- An event whereby a scaffolder suffered an injury to their finger whilst handling items during strong wind. We have reviewed NRS-Dounreay's follow up to this event and considered this incident was appropriately managed by the dutyholder.
- The site suffered a temporary site wide disruption to their telephone and computer networks. This occurrence was as a result of matters outside of the dutyholder's control and was effectively managed by NRS-Dounreay. No further regulatory follow up is planned.

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.

- NRS Dounreay notified ONR of their intent to modify their onsite transport arrangements, via the change of trailer used for material movement. We have reviewed the documentation supplied by NRS Dounreay, visited the area where the trailers are stored and discussed the modification with NRS project lead. We were content that further regulatory oversight was not required to manage the risk from the proposed modification and Dounreay implemented the modification under their own arrangements.

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.

References

There are no sources in the current document.