



ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Dounreay

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Report for period: 1 October – 31 December 2025

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Approved by: Deputy Head of Safety Regulation'

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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/llossg-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.

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

Our site inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 October – 31 December 2025:

- An inspection took place on 7 October 2025 to confirm compliance with the ONR improvement notice ONR-IN-25-01 – Topple of small items monitor. The inspection focused on the progress made in improving arrangements for the management of significant handling risks.

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 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:

- To review through structured regulatory interface meetings the progress being made to implement improvements designed to return the site 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:

- During the reporting period we have remained 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 inspectors continue to conduct formal reviews of the site's progress in delivering a number of agreed improvement activities. The three main topics areas are:

- safety leadership
- assets in a degraded condition
- health and safety compliance

During the reporting period our site inspector 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.

The following incidents were reported to ONR within this reporting period:

- An incident reported in September involved an NRS employee receiving a very low level of contamination on their clothing and body. We have reviewed NRS-Dounreay's follow up to this event and considered this incident was appropriately managed by the dutyholder. The individual was unharmed and the dose detected was within statutory limits.
- A contactor working on the site fell while working on the perimeter fence and suffered injury to his face as they lost their footing. The injuries sustained were minor but required a recovery period greater than 7 days. We have reviewed NRS-Dounreay's follow up to this event and considered this incident was appropriately managed by the dutyholder.
- An individual was struck by the car door they were exiting when it was blown shut by high winds. We have reviewed NRS-Dounreay's follow up to this event and considered this incident was appropriately managed by the dutyholder.
- An NRS-Dounreay employee suffered an injury to their ankle while undertaking training off-site. We have reviewed NRS-Dounreay's follow up to this event and considered this incident was appropriately managed by the dutyholder.

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 have not submitted, to ONR, any modifications to plant or processes in this period.

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

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References

There are no sources in the current document.