



Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Quarterly Site Report for Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment

Report for period 1 October 2014 to 31 December 2014

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed quarterly to members of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site Inspectors from ONR usually attend the Dounreay Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to enquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE)

Under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 ONR regulates 37 licensed sites in GB. In addition ONR is responsible for regulating a number of non-licensed nuclear sites under other health and safety legislation, Vulcan NRTE falls into this category; it operates under an Authorisation from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and is regulated by the MoD's Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR). The site is adjacent to the Dounreay licensed site. This report summarises ONR inspection and other regulatory activities associated with Vulcan NRTE which are co-ordinated with the DNSR. From the beginning of April 2014 ONR became the sole regulator for conventional safety on the Vulcan NRTE Authorised Site.

1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

The ONR Site Inspector undertook interventions at site on the 18 and 19 November. The ONR Defence Programme Director visited site on the 19 November. On 13 November two ONR conventional Health and Safety Inspectors undertook a familiarisation visit.

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

2.1 Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA74); and regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (IRR99), the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 (REPPiR), and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

On the 18 November the ONR Site Inspector undertook a REPPiR compliance inspection against the duties on Vulcan NRTE as an 'operator' under the regulations. The Site Inspector found that Vulcan NRTE was generally compliant with regulatory requirements, however some areas for improvement were identified and brought to the attention of the operators. Vulcan NRTE has agreed to address the areas for improvement that were identified and the Site Inspector will monitor progress as part of routine regulatory business.

2.2 Other work

On the 13 November two ONR conventional (i.e. non-nuclear) Health and Safety Inspectors undertook a familiarisation visit to the site. The purpose of the visit was to gain an appreciation of the main activities undertaken on the site and the key conventional health and safety hazards that are present as a result of those activities. A number of observations pertaining to non-nuclear health and safety matters were made during the visit. These related to both examples of good standards seen and standards which could be enhanced. However, the Inspectors judged that it was evident that the arrangements present on the site for planning and organising for non-nuclear health and safety management are effective.

On the 19 November the ONR Defence Programme Director attended a familiarisation visit to the site. This was his first visit to the Site since joining ONR. During the visit to Vulcan NRTE he met key personnel.

As previously reported by ONR, Vulcan NRTE has produced a new REPPiR Report of Assessment (ROA) which ONR received towards the end of the quarter 2 reporting period. With DNSR's support, ONR is undertaking a technical assessment of the ROA. Once that assessment is complete ONR will review and determine the extent of the off-site planning area as required by REPPiR Regulation 9(1).

During the time at site, and via subsequent communications, the ONR Site Inspector received sufficient evidence of progress that he was able to close-out the remaining findings from a previous radiation protection compliance inspection.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

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

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

ONR inspectors may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. No such documents were issued during this period.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Quarterly News. The online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/onr-quarterly-report.htm>) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the ongoing changes at ONR. <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>. For the latest news and updates from ONR visit the website and sign up for our ebulletin (<http://www.onr.org.uk/ebulletin/index.htm>).

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