



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

Report for period 01 July to 30 September 2015

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 for the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

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

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Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE)

The majority of sites inspected by ONR are licensed under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (as amended). Vulcan NRTE is not a licensed site although it operates under Authorisation from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR). The site is adjacent to the Dounreay licensed site and is regulated by ONR through other legislation as noted below. This report summarises ONR inspection and other regulatory activities associated with Vulcan NRTE which are co-ordinated with inspections by DNSR.

1 INSPECTIONS

1.1 Dates of inspection

ONR Specialist Inspectors in Conventional Health and Safety visited the site on the following date during the quarter:

27 August 2015.

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).

In August 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 relating to non-nuclear health and safety matters were made during the visit. Standards observed were generally good and there were no formal actions required.

2.2 Other work

In August, ONR Inspectors attended a meeting with Highland Council, Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd (DSRL) and Vulcan NRTE to discuss arrangements for testing of DSRL and NRTE Vulcan separate off-site emergency plans prepared by Highland Council. It was agreed with ONR that one Level 2 exercise could be carried out to cover both Plans as long as any significant differences in the Plans are tested separately.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR 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

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

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Retirement of the Chief Nuclear Inspector

Dr Andy Hall, the first Chief Nuclear Inspector to hold this statutory office, announced his decision to retire from ONR in November 2015. The ONR Board, with the approval of the Secretary of State, has appointed Dr Richard Savage as acting Chief Nuclear Inspector, pending a process to fill the role on a permanent basis. Richard was previously Head of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator before joining ONR in his current role as a Deputy Chief Nuclear Inspector.

Regulation Matters magazine

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in Regulation Matters. This quarterly online publication (<http://www.onr.org.uk/regulation-matters.htm>) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the on-going changes at ONR. For the latest news and updates from ONR, you can also visit the website and sign up for our e-bulletin: <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>.

6 CONTACTS

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Published MM/YY

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