



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

Report for period 01 January to 31 March 2016

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INSPECTIONS	3
2	ROUTINE MATTERS	3
3	NON-ROUTINE MATTERS	3
4	REGULATORY ACTIVITY	3
5	NEWS FROM ONR	4
6	CONTACTS	4

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

During this period no on-site inspections were undertaken by ONR. However, the ONR Site Inspector participated in a meeting to discuss arrangements for future emergency exercise demonstrations and attended a regulatory interface meeting with the NRTE Vulcan Defuel and Decommissioning (VDAD) project team.

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 (REPPPIR), and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

No on-site inspections were undertaken this quarter.

2.2 Other work

The ONR Site Inspector participated in a meeting with Vulcan NRTE and Dounreay Sites Restoration Limited to provide input to planning for future emergency exercise demonstrations.

The ONR Site Inspector attended a VDAD regulatory interface meeting to gain an overview of the proposed phasing and approvals strategy.

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

Regulation Matters

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Regulation Matters. The 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 visit the website and sign up for our e-bulletin: <http://www.onr.org.uk/index.htm>.

Chief Nuclear Inspector appointment

ONR announced the appointment of Dr Richard Savage as its new Chief Nuclear Inspector (CNI) to lead our regulatory activity. Richard is a Chartered Engineer with an extensive background in nuclear safety and regulation. He served as Head of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator, Ministry of Defence, before being appointed to ONR as a Deputy Chief Nuclear Inspector in 2013. He was Acting CNI since Dr Andy Hall's retirement in November 2015.

ONR Strategic Plan 2016-2020

In March, ONR published its Strategic Plan covering 2016-2020. The plan sets out the factors that will influence our work and the assumptions we have made about regulating the nuclear sector in the next few years, as well as how we deliver the commitments we have made to the public, ministers and government, licensees, dutyholders and our staff. The plan was laid in Parliament on 22 March and can be viewed on the ONR website.

6 CONTACTS

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