



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

Report for period 1 April to 30 June 2018

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

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Dounreay 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 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. Vulcan NTRE 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 the inspection and 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.

### **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).

No on-site inspections were undertaken this quarter.

#### **2.2 Other work**

Nuclear sites come under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001 (REPPIR). Where there is a potential for the public to be affected by a reasonably foreseeable radiation emergency at a nuclear site, an off-site emergency planning area is currently determined by ONR.

The UK is currently revising REPPIR 2001 as part of the transposition of the Basic Safety Standards Directive (BSSD). As the future requirements of REPPIR 2018 become clearer, there is less certainty that alignment between the requirements of the new and old REPPIR will be as close as previously believed. This has increased the potential for multiple changes in detailed emergency planning areas in short succession.

As a result, ONR is pausing further determination work, including that for the Vulcan site, while we assess the methodology to be used for detailed emergency planning zones in REPPIR 18. Local authorities and licensees have been briefed about ONR's transition approach to determination work, which should be smoother and reduce the burden to all dutyholders moving forward.

### **3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS**

Licensees / authorisees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's / authorisee'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 may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. No such documents were issued during the period.

## 5 NEWS FROM ONR

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

On 9 May we held our ONR annual Industry Conference, with the theme - 'Public Safety – everyone's responsibility.' Delegates from more than 45 different organisations attended, and we were delighted that Richard Harrington, Parliamentary under Secretary of State, Minister for Business and Industry, was able to join us to deliver a keynote speech. The conference provided us with an opportunity to engage directly with senior representatives from across industry and government on a number of topical and strategic issues affecting the sector.

As part of our continued stakeholder engagement work, we welcomed finance professionals from a number of nuclear site licensees and dutyholders to seminars in London and Birmingham in June. Led by our Finance Director, Sarah High, we hosted the seminars to provide the industry with a better understanding of our charging methodology, the principles we apply, and how the charging process works. To accompany the seminars we have also published a new booklet – [How we charge for Nuclear Regulation](#) – which is available on our [website](#).

The next ONR/NGO engagement forum will take place on 11 October in London. This is a forum to discuss strategic, cross-cutting regulatory matters. Site specific matters are normally addressed via Site Stakeholder Groups. We are always keen to engage with a range of stakeholders and groups on nuclear safety and security issues, so if you do represent a nuclear-interest Non-Governmental Organisation, and are not already involved through our forum or via a Site Stakeholder Group, please get in touch with the ONR Communications team for further details, via [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk)

### **Regulatory News**

A delegation from ONR, led by Chief Nuclear Inspector Mark Foy, supported the UK's contribution to the 6th Joint Convention review meeting in Vienna. Bringing together 78 countries from around the world, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management is the world's leading international forum for ensuring society and the environment are protected from hazards arising from spent fuel and radioactive waste. Further details can be found on the [IAEA website](#).

We have notified Sellafield Ltd of our intention to prosecute the company for offences under Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (1974). The charge relates to an incident on 5 February 2017, at a facility which handles special nuclear materials, which resulted in personal contamination to a Sellafield Ltd employee. The decision to prosecute follows an ONR investigation into the incident

In May, we awarded the contract for delivery of the UK Nuclear Safeguards Information Management and Reporting System (SIMRS) IT system to Axis 12 Ltd. The IT system is

necessary for us to establish a domestic safeguards regime after the UK's withdrawal from the Euratom Treaty. The government has now launched the consultation on Nuclear Safeguards Regulation, further details can be found on our [website](#).

## **Corporate News**

In May, we published a self-assessment exercise to update on how well our activity currently aligns with the Regulators' Code, which came into effect in April 2014 to provide a framework for how regulators should engage with those they regulate. The full report is available on our [website](#).

In June, we published our Annual Report and Accounts, highlighting the extent of our regulatory activities. During the 17/18 year over 1,000 inspections were carried out across 36 licensed sites and transport dutyholders, ensuring the required standards of safety and security were met to protect the public and workers. The full report is available on our [website](#).

In July, we published our second [gender pay report](#). The organisation-wide results show that ONR has a mean gender pay gap of 35.2%, which is wider than last year, although it is broadly similar to the rest of the UK nuclear industry and anticipated given our workforce profile, and that of the industries from which we have historically recruited. ONR is committed to addressing this issue and continues to focus on improving diversity and inclusion.

Our Chief Executive, Adrienne Kelbie, has agreed a three-year contract extension, taking her term of employment to January 2022.

## 6 CONTACTS

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