



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

Report for period 1 October to 31 December 2017

## 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/lrc/>).

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**

ONR Inspectors made visits to the site on the following dates during the quarter:  
1 - 2 November 2017

### **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 November the site held its annual demonstration emergency exercise i.e. an exercise that concentrates primarily on the operator's actions and arrangements both on and off the site. As is the normal practice for such exercises on a MOD Authorised Site, ONR supported DNSR in assessing the exercise. ONR concurred with DNSR's assessment of the exercise being an adequate demonstration.

#### **2.2 Other work**

ONR is required to specify the REPPIR off-site emergency planning and prior information area under regulation 9(1) and 16(1) of REPPIR. It does this based in part on a technical assessment of the information provided in the Report of Assessment (RoA) and Hazard Identification and Risk Evaluation (HIRE) submitted by the dutyholder. As reported during the second quarter of 2017, ONR has completed the technical assessment of the RoA and HIRE submitted by Vulcan NTRE and concluded that the reports provide a sound basis for the purposes of emergency planning. Work to determine the off-site emergency planning and prior information area has been ongoing during this quarter.

### **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**

## **5.1 New nuclear power station design approved**

The UK Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (UK ABWR), designed by Hitachi-GE, is suitable for construction in the UK, the regulators confirmed following completion of an in-depth assessment of the nuclear reactor design. The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, the regulators who undertake the Generic Design Assessment of new reactor designs, are satisfied that this reactor meets regulatory expectations on safety, security and environmental protection at this stage of the regulatory process.

ONR has issued a Design Acceptance Confirmation (DAC) and the environment agencies have issued a Statement of Design Acceptability (SoDA) to Hitachi-GE.

## **5.2 Step 2 of nuclear reactor assessment**

We also announced on 16 November that we are progressing to the next phase of our assessment of General Nuclear System Ltd's UK HPR1000 reactor technology. This means we will now begin the technical assessment phase. Additionally, all members of the public can give their views and find out more information about the design by going to UKHPR 1000 website at [www.ukhpr1000.com](http://www.ukhpr1000.com)

## **5.3 ONR response to BEIS impact assessment**

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has recently published its Impact Assessment of the Nuclear Safeguards' Bill and that makes reference to ONR's regulation. We contacted BEIS to clarify two points within the document as part of our ongoing constructive engagement with them to develop a domestic safeguards regime as part of exiting Euratom. The first is that ONR regulates the nuclear industry, it does not provide services to it. Secondly, the Government's policy has developed since the assessment was undertaken and the intention is to put in place a regulatory framework which is robust and as comprehensive as Euratom. This means that we are not in a position to identify potential efficiencies in our regulatory approach at this stage. As we support BEIS in its development of secondary legislation, we will provide advice to the Government to inform the anticipated impact assessment for nuclear safeguards regulation.

## 6 CONTACTS

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