



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

Report for period 1 January 2021 – 30 June 2021

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 Site 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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1 INSPECTIONS

Most 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.

1.1 Dates of inspection

During this period no 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 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

No on-site inspections were undertaken this period.

2.2 Other work

In this period a new ONR Nominated Site Inspector has responsibility for Vulcan NRTE. Discussions with the DNSR Inspector have been undertaken to support familiarisation of the regulation of the authorised site.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Duty-holders are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the duty-holders 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. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Below are summaries of key activities over the last three months. Further detail is available on our [website](#).

Covid-19 (Coronavirus) (ONR position)

We are continuing to obtain assurance that nuclear site licensees and other dutyholders are adequately resourced to continue to safely and securely carry out their activities. We remain satisfied with industry's response at this time and there has been no significant change to dutyholders' safety and security resilience.

All licensed sites are required to determine minimum staffing levels necessary to ensure safe and secure operations and contingency arrangements in the event that these levels are not met. This condition is specifically designed to ensure that industry can adequately manage and control activities that could impact on nuclear safety and security under all foreseeable circumstances, including pandemics.

Although ONR staff continue to work primarily at home, (carrying out as much of our work as possible via videoconference, phone and email), we are carefully and progressively increasing our site footprint. We continue to assess our on-site presence in line with government guidelines and our business needs, ensuring we have a balanced portfolio of on-site inspections and interventions, that are important to support effective regulation across our purposes.

Our latest position can be found on our [website](#).

Enforcement Action

- In April, we announced that EDF [complied](#) with a Direction we served on 14 December 2020, under the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (2000). This followed an inspection, at which found a number of pressure system components at Heysham 1 Power Station were overdue their scheduled examination.
- In May, we agreed to [extend an improvement notice](#) served on EDF in September 2020, recognising the progress made so far. The notice was served after some of the equipment used to measure reactor power at Heysham 2 was incorrectly configured. We judged that Heysham 2 is able to operate safely, and that additional time to demonstrate the required improvements will not pose a risk to safety. EDF must now comply with the improvement notice by 31 July 2021.
- In June, we announced that Rolls-Royce Submarines Ltd (RRSL) had [complied](#) with an improvement notice served on 29 May 2020. The notice was served after RRSL operators brought 21 units of fissile material into the facility – which exceeding the limit defined within the safety case and set out in the Criticality Control Certificate for the facility.

Stakeholder Engagement

- In April, we published an [article](#) introducing our newest board member, Jean Llewellyn, who joined us in October 2020, as security lead. Jean brings with her a wealth of experience, including serving as a non-executive director on the board of the World Institute for Nuclear Security since 2018 – which has given her a good understating of the global security challenges facing the nuclear industry.
- In May, we issued our e-bulletin '[ONR News](#)' to subscribers. This issue included farewell reflections from our outgoing chief executive, a leadership update, further information on our COVID -19 response, and the results of our latest stakeholder survey. You can sign up for our e-bulletin [here](#)

- On 1 June, we [announced](#) the full implementation of our new leadership structure. Mark Foy is now our combined Chief Executive and Chief Nuclear Inspector. He is supported by Sarah High as Deputy Chief Executive, and Donald Urquhart as Executive Director of Operations.
- In June, we published our new [Corporate Plan for 2021/22](#), which sets out our key priorities to protect the public by securing safe nuclear operations.
- In June, our State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC) project - which saw ONR become the UK's national nuclear safeguards regulator from 31 December 2020, was [shortlisted for a national award](#) in the Project Management Institute's UK National Project Awards in the 'Project of the Year (Public Sector)' category. Nuclear safeguards are measures to verify that countries comply with international obligations not to use nuclear materials from civil nuclear programmes for non-peaceful purposes.

All our latest news is available on our website www.onr.org.uk

6 CONTACTS

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Redgrave Court

Merton Road

Bootle

Merseyside

L20 7HS

website: www.onr.org.uk

email: Contact@onr.gov.uk

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