

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Site Report for

Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE)

Report for period 1 July - 31 December 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/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Dounreay Site 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

The majority of sites inspected by ONR are licensed under the nuclear installations act 1965. 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 in section 2.1. This report summarises the inspection and regulatory activities associated with Vulcan NRTE.

1.1. Dates of Inspection

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 01 July – 31 December 2021:

24 and 25 November 2021

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).

In this period, routine inspections of site covered the following:

- emergency preparedness;

Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records on our website www.onr.org.uk. Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

A planned emergency preparedness exercise for the site under the current MoD Authorisation (specifically AC11) and the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (REPPIR) to demonstrate the operator's emergency plan. This was a joint inspection with DNSR.

From REPPIR 19 perspective this exercise demonstrated compliance against Regulation 10 (Operator's emergency plan) and Regulation 12 (Reviewing and testing of emergency plans); as the scenario wasn't radiologically challenging for this exercise, there was no requirement for Regulation 18 (Emergency exposures – employees) to be demonstrated, something that was highlighted in feedback that we would like to see included for the next demonstration.

Overall, there was good pace and consistent communication demonstrated throughout the exercise. I noted from the ONR observations of Lonestar 19 that the site had addressed the areas of improvement identified and they were demonstrated during this exercise. I supported the DNSR team assessment that this was an adequate demonstration of the site's emergency arrangements.

2.2. Other Work

During the site visit on the 24 and 25 November I had a familiarisation of the site facilities.

I have also attended virtually the Dounreay Stakeholder Group site restoration sub-group meeting on the 21 July 2021 and 3 November 2021, to represent ONR and the regulation of the 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. ONR inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

- No Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from the Office for Nuclear Regulation, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at www.onr.org.uk/onrnews

6. Contacts

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Published 02/22

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