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

Report for period 1st October – 31st December 2013

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 of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/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.

Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE), Dounreay

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 the inspection and regulatory activities associated with Vulcan NRTE which are co-ordinated with inspections by DNSR.

1 INSPECTIONS

During this period there was a change in the ONR Nominated Site Inspector. Both the incoming and outgoing Nominated Site Inspector visited site on 23rd and 24th October, primarily for the incoming Inspector to become familiar with the site.

2 ROUTINE MATTERS

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 this quarter, ONR has received a progress report on the work to address the remaining actions arising from the IRR99 themed intervention undertaken on 12-15 March. That inspection looked at the operator's compliance arrangements together with the implementation of those arrangements at the site. ONR consider that the site continues to make good progress in addressing the remaining actions.

In October ONR hosted at its Redgrave Court, Bootle offices a meeting with DNSR and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency on the long term future regulation of activities on the Vulcan NRTE site i.e. once reactor operations have ended. This was an early engagement meeting in order to allow long term planning.

3 NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

Operators are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the operator's response including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

There were no items of particular note during the current reporting period.

4 REGULATORY ACTIVITY

Under health and safety legislation ONR site inspectors, and other HSE inspectors, may issue enforcement (Crown) notices to secure improvements to safety.

No enforcement (Crown) notices were issued during the quarter.

Reports detailing regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/pars.

5 NEWS FROM ONR

Insight into ONR's work as an independent regulator of the nuclear industry can be found in ONR's Quarterly News. The online publication (www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/onr-quarterly-report.htm) reports on the key themes and developments in each of ONR's regulatory programmes and provides an update about the ongoing changes at ONR, as it progresses toward becoming an independent statutory corporation. www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/index.htm. For the latest news and updates from ONR visit the website and sign up for our ebulletin (www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/ebulletin/index.htm).

6 CONTACTS

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