VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – October 2026

Health and Safety

Since the last report to the DSG subgroup in July, Vulcan has had no lost time accidents or injuries. We have had no minor injury's during this period.

Environment

There have been two instances of minor ground oil contamination reported and dealt with during this reporting period.

One spill was concentrated around a vacant parking bay, but due to the heavy rain conditions some of the oil had dispersed to the clean drain system. Spill kits were deployed to minimise the oil entering the drain, the affected area was cleaned up. The drain was opened and there were no obvious traces of oil, indicating that if any oil had entered the drain, it would be minimal volume.

On another occasion, oil was observed on the Vulcan site. Upon further investigation the oil was identified to a MEWP (Mobile Elevated Working Platform) that had been in use throughout the day, during its relocation to its overnight parking area a hydraulic seal defect meant that a small drip distributed oil intermittently over the route where it was last used to its parking location. Spill kits were deployed to minimise the oil entering the drainage and clean up conducted. All drains on the route were opened, and spill kits utilised to minimise any oil spreading. If any oil entered the drains, it would be minimal volume as it was a very small intermittent drip.

Radioactive Waste Disposal

There have been no challenges to the Approval of Arrangements (AoA) limits during this period.

The annual rolling discharge (1 October 2025 – 30 September 2026), is shown in Table 1. The discharges are expressed as a percentage against the limits detailed in the SEPA letter of agreement.

	Type	Percentage
Gaseous	Noble Gases	0%
	Other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	3.5%
Liquid	Cobalt 60	0.003%
	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.004%
	Tritium	0.0001%
		Number
Solid	LLW drums transferred to NRS Dounreay	107

Table 1 – Annual Rolling Discharge (Oct 25 – Sep 26)

Following Validation and Verification (V&V) on the discharge reporting tool, some further work was identified. This work is essential to ensure that the new arrangements align seamlessly with legacy reporting arrangements.

The physical work to provide gaseous tritium and gaseous Carbon 14 sampling capability is complete.

The third solid waste (soft bagged waste) assay campaign is underway (October 2026). This contractor provided service has proved to be reliable, with timely provision of results.

Site Programme

We have been in a period of collecting data, this continues so that our support to the wider submarine enterprise ensures that the safety of our submarines at sea our maintained. Works have been ongoing to ensure component refurbishment continues as per the needs of the enterprise.

Events

Since the last Subgroup meeting, there has been no events reported to DNSR or ONR. There have been two minor oil excursions reported to SEPA (as previously discussed) in accordance with their mandatory reporting criteria.

Emergency Arrangements

Following the Level 1 demonstration, Lonestar 26, in the presence of DNSR on Wednesday 10 June, planning has been taking place for a continuation of the exercise focusing on Transition To Recovery (TTR). This exercise will take place at the end of October, with all activities confined to a small area of Site and no alarms will be sounded.

The SECUREX final planning is underway, and the exercise is scheduled for mid-November. As usual further details, including on sounding of alarms will be promulgated closer to the exercise.

Regulatory Inspections / Audits

Whilst on site for the TTR, DNSR will conduct a AC22 (Modification or Experiment on Existing Plant) Regulatory inspection focusing on our Modification arrangements.

Following the closure of the Regulatory Issue (RI) concerning CDM Regulations; plans are underway preparing for a follow up inspection in early November emphasising on the current ATB reclad works. Additional controls remain in place for activities which fall within the scope of CDM Regulations. These will be lifted once Site has confidence that the new arrangements are working in all scenarios.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

The Site continues with the hazard reduction programme, identifying and removing redundant equipment from site. Several visits of key personnel/stakeholders have attended site to focus efforts on driving through the safe and secure transition to NRS Dounreay.

Other

Vulcan supported the RNLI John O Groats 10K fun run assisting with organising, marshaling and in some cases competing.



I Walker
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan