VULCAN NAVAL REACTOR TEST ESTABLISHMENT

DNSR QUARTERLY REPORT

1 Jul 2026 to 30 Sep 2026

FOREWORD

1. This report is issued as part of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator's (DNSR's) commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Defence Nuclear Enterprise[1] available to the workforce and the public. The Secretary of State for Defence is answerable to Parliament for the safety of all defence activities; he has issued a Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Policy Statement requiring the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to comply with legislation, and where there are exemptions relating to defence activities, to make, so far as is practicable, arrangements at least as good as those required by legislation. DNSR is empowered to regulate nuclear and radiological safety in the Defence Nuclear Enterprise. This is achieved in a manner that complements and joins up with the work of statutory regulators[2].

2. Vulcan Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) is an Authorised Site under MoD regulation; Authorisation is a process akin to licensing under the Nuclear Installations Act. Statutory regulators have roles under general health, safety and environmental legislation, and DNSR Inspectors work closely with them; this report should be read in conjunction with theirs. The report is made available to members of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group. Where possible, a DNSR Inspector will attend Stakeholder Group meetings and will respond to any questions raised. Additionally, DNSR Inspectors may be contacted at their offices at Abbey Wood, Bristol.

PERIOD OF THIS REPORT

3. This report covers the quarterly reporting period from 1 Jul 2026 to 30 Sep 2026.

ROUTINE MATTERS

4. Routine visits to the Site are made for the purpose of undertaking pre-planned examinations of the adequacy of safety management, examinations of Authorisation Condition (AC) compliance or compliance with other regulations and attending formal meetings with Site management or their representatives.

5. DNSR conducted no visits to Vulcan NRTE during this quarter. Regular MoD NET MS Teams remote meetings with the Naval Superintendent Vulcan (NSV) have been established and continue to take place:

PERMISSION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

6. DNSR has not placed any regulatory enforcement action on NSV in this quarter.

NON-ROUTINE MATTERS

7. No non-routine matters were raised during this period.

[1] Comprising the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme (NNPP) and the Nuclear Weapon Programme (NWP).
[2] The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the Environment Agency (EA), and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

DNSR ICF-b

15 Oct 2026

Distribution: (Indicates* by e-mail)

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Dounreay Stakeholder Group*

ONR (Vulcan Site Inspector) *