Office for Nuclear Regulation

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Dounreay

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Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd - Dounreay

Report for period: 1 July – 30 September 2026

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Approved by: Head of Regulation

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This report is issued as part of our 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 our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/llcssg-reports.

Our site inspectors 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 us via email at contact@onr.gov.uk.

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

Our site inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 July – 30 September 2026.

- 30 June
- 23 September

2. Routine matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the Energy Act 2013;
- regulations made under the Energy Act 2013, for example the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 and the Nuclear Safeguards (EU Exit) Regulations 2019;
- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Health and Safety at Work etc 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).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect legal compliance. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, inspections and interactions with Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) Ltd - Dounreay covered the following:

- Asset management
- Emergency arrangements
- To review through structured regulatory interface meetings the progress being made to implement improvements designed to return the site to routine regulatory attention.

Members of the public who would like further information on our inspection activities during the reporting period can view site inspection records on our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records.

In addition during the reporting period we have remained informed of all major site activities that may affect nuclear safety, security and conventional health and safety and will continue to undertake proportionate assessment activities necessary to support the release of regulatory hold-points placed on a number of the projects on site, as appropriate.

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other work

Our inspectors continue to conduct formal reviews of the site's progress in delivering a number of agreed improvement activities. The three main topics areas are:

- safety leadership
- assets in a degraded condition
- health and safety compliance

During the reporting period our site inspector held meetings with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety, and welfare at work.

3. Non-routine matters

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

A significant lifting incident was proactively reported to ONR. The incident was as a result of the toppling of a piece of workshop equipment weighing approximately 1400 kg, which was incorrectly lifted. There were no injuries and there are no implications to nuclear safety or security. Following regulatory consideration of the event, ONR issued an enforcement letter to the licensee. The licensee has provided a robust response throughout, identifying and implementing a range of improvements to reduce the likelihood of recurrence and restore compliance. ONR will continue to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of these improvements through its planned regulatory oversight activities.

4. Regulatory activity

We may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, we issue regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken. These are usually collectively termed licence instruments but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

No licence instruments, enforcement notices or enforcement letters were issued during this period.

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/project-assessment-reports

5. News from ONR

For the latest updates and information on our work, please subscribe to our regular email newsletter, ONR News, at www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter.

6. Contacts

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