



Defence
Safety Authority

**HMNB Devonport and Devonport
Royal Dockyard Limited
Defence Nuclear Safety
Regulator site report**

01 July – 31 December 2023

Defence Nuclear
Safety Regulator

DNSR

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2. Foreword

This report is issued as part of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator's (DNSR) commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the Defence Nuclear Programme¹ available to the Authorisee, the wider Defence stakeholder community, and members of the Local Liaison Committee where these are convened. 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 reasonably practicable, arrangements at least as good as those required by legislation. DNSR is empowered to regulate nuclear and radiological safety in the Defence Nuclear Programme. This is achieved in a manner that complements and joins up with the work of statutory regulators².

Devonport Royal Dockyard Limited is both a Licensed Site and an Authorised site under MoD regulation. HMNB Devonport is an Authorised site under MoD regulation but it is not licensed. Authorisation is a process akin to licensing under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965. DNSR Inspectors work closely with colleagues in ONR² (and other regulators); this report should be read in conjunction with theirs. This report is made available to members of the Local Liaison Committee where convened. Where possible, a DNSR Inspector will attend Local Liaison Committee meetings and will respond to any questions asked. Additionally, DNSR Inspectors are based at MoD offices in Bristol and can be contacted via email at dsa-dnsr-enquiries@mod.gov.uk.

3. Period of this report

This report covers the reporting period from 01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023.

4. DNSR on site

4.1. DNSR staff were on site at DRDL and/or HMNB Devonport at the following times within this reporting period:

- July 10-14, 24-27
- Aug 14-17
- Sept 11-14, 25-28
- Oct 9-12, 23-27
- Nov 13-16, 27-30
- Dec 11-14

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).

5. Inspections of the site

5.1. Inspections were undertaken on the sites for the purpose of:

- To gain evidence that the Authorisee's safety management arrangements remain adequate and assurance that their implementation meets the DNSR Authorisation Conditions.
- To drive improved safety performance and behaviours identified in the DNSR Intervention Strategy for the Devonport site.
- To monitor the Authorisee's actions in response to incidents, operations, maintenance, modifications, inspection findings, regulatory enforcement, safety case changes and other matters that might affect safety.
- Arrangements made and implemented were considered adequate in the areas inspected or appropriate recovery improvement programmes are in place where gaps in compliance were identified. DNSR have continually monitored progress against previously raised issues and sought to influence closure within a suitable timeframe.

5.2. DRDL;

- DNSR have carried out regulatory inspections covering arrangements for Operating Rules, Operating Instructions and also arrangement for ensuring close co-operation with other teams. No significant issues were found.
- DNSR have carried out routine meetings with DRDL staff during monthly site visits to review DRDL activities and monitor compliance with defence regulatory requirements.
- DNSR (In conjunction with ONR) assessed a planned Devonport Emergency exercise demonstration in October & concluded that that the exercise was an adequate test of the emergency arrangements.

5.3. HMNB(D);

- In period, DNSR have carried out regulatory Inspections covering control of work, arrangement for ensuring close co-operation with other teams and maintenance of nuclear equipment. No significant issues were found.
- The Devonport Site Emergency Exercise Assessment (joint with DRDL and HMNB(D)) is covered in section 6.2 above.
- The retired Submarines in 3 Basin continue to be monitored for any signs of degradation. No nuclear safety concerns have been identified.
- Regulatory engagements on a wide range of areas of the site continue on a regular basis with monthly visits to the site taking place.

6. Non-routine matters

6.1. Authorisees are required to have arrangements to respond to un-planned matters and events, including actions to implement necessary improvements. DNSR reporting criteria and intervention thresholds are consistent with the ONR event reporting criteria and thresholds.

6.2. During this period, there were 5 DINF1 reported (3 on HMNB(D) and 2 on DRDL) and addressed satisfactorily.

7. Permissioning and Enforcement Activity

7.1. On 27/10/23, DNSR (in conjunction with ONR) approved the Devonport Site Emergency Plan Issue 2.

7.2. During this period, DNSR raised no Corrective Action Requirements (CARs) or Improvement Notices. DNSR has raised 8 Recommendations and will monitor progress for addressing these through monthly engagements on Site.

8. Contact

This document is issued by the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR). If you have any questions on the above report or require further information, please contact DNSR at dsa-dnsr-enquiries@mod.gov.uk.