



Defence
Safety Authority

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

01 January – 30 June 2024

**Defence Nuclear
Safety Regulator**

DNSR

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2. Foreword

2.1. 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.

2.2. 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

3.1. This report covers the reporting period from 01 January 2024 to 30 June 2024.

4. DNSR on site

4.1. DNSR staff maintained a strong presence on both HMNB(D) and DRDL sites, visiting for meetings with staff and site awareness on the following dates in the reporting period:

- January 8-11 & 22-25
- February 5-8 & 19-22
- March 4-7 & 25-28
- April 15-18 & 29-2nd May
- May 13-16 & 27-30
- June 10-13 & 24-27

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 nuclear 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 safety case management and worked with the site to monitor preparations for future activities requiring DNSR regulator permissioning.
- DNSR have carried out routine meetings with DRDL staff during monthly site visits to review DRDL activities and monitor compliance with defence regulatory requirements.

5.3. HMNB(D);

- In period, DNSR have carried out regulatory Inspections covering management of records, training of personnel, Use of cranes, and modification management. No significant issues were found.
- 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 in place to respond to unplanned matters and events, as well as address actions to implement any necessary improvements. DNSR reporting criteria and intervention thresholds are consistent with the ONR event reporting criteria and thresholds.

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6.2. During this period, there were 3 DINF1 reported (2 on HMNB(D) and 1 on DRDL) and addressed satisfactorily.

7. Permissioning and Enforcement Activity

7.1. During this period, DNSR raised no Corrective Action Requirements (CARs) or Improvement Notices. DNSR has raised 19 Recommendations and will monitor progress for addressing these through monthly engagements on Site.

8. Contact

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