



MEDIA RELEASE

National Nuclear Regulator PO Box 7106, Centurion 0046
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30 March 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NNR GRANTS NUCLEAR VESSEL LICENCE FOR THE BRITISH ROYAL NAVY VESSEL HMS SCEPTRE TO VISIT SIMONS TOWN.

The National Nuclear Regulator has granted a Nuclear Vessel Licence - NVL 007- to the South African Navy who made the application on behalf of the United Kingdom Royal Navy; for the nuclear propelled military vessel HMS Sceptre to visit the Simons Town Naval Base from 3 April to 15 April 2010.

“The NNR is satisfied that the application received complies with all aspects of the regulatory requirements in terms of the section 21 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act (Act No 47 of 1999). Furthermore the NNR wishes to reassure all stakeholders concerned that it will conduct environmental sampling before the arrival of the vessel during berth in the harbour and after the vessel has left. We do this to ensure that there are no adverse radiological impacts to the Simon’s Town environment due to the HMS Sceptre’s visit” *stated Adv. BM Mkhize, Chief Executive Officer of the National Nuclear Regulator.*

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For more information



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Background information

The NNR received an application for a nuclear vessel licence on 07 December 2009 by the SA Navy on behalf of the United Kingdom Royal Navy for the HMS Sceptre, a nuclear powered submarine to visit the Simons Town Naval Base from 18-29 March 2010.

In accordance with the NNR Act and the procedure for processing such application the SA Navy published the application in the Government Gazette and two local newspapers in the Western Cape Province and also served the application to various persons and bodies as determined by the NNR. The timeframe to make representations is 30 days, from the date of publication, as determined by the NNR Act. The closing date for making representations was 08 February 2010. The NNR received representations from Earthlife Africa, Koeberg Alliance and the Office of the Premier Western Cape. The NNR reviewed and responded to the representations received.

On 15 March 2010 the NNR received a request from the South African Navy to amend the dates for the scheduled visit of the HMS Sceptre from 18-29 March to 03-



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05 April 2010. Accordingly the NNR instructed the SA Navy to publish a notice for information purposes that the visit of the United Kingdom military nuclear powered submarine, HMS Sceptre to the Simons Town Naval Base is now scheduled to take place from 3 April – 15 April 2010 and not 18 March to 29 March 2010 as initially envisaged. Given the fact of the change of dates did not materially affect the essence of the application process together with the issues considered as part of the representation, the NNR did not consider it necessary to re-open the public participation process.

About the NNR

The NNR was established through the National Nuclear Regulator Act , Act 47 of 1999 to provide for the **protection** of **persons, property** and the **environment** against nuclear damage through the establishment of safety standards and application of effective regulatory practices. A key function of the NNR is to develop or adopt standards of safety and exercise regulatory control over the safety of nuclear installations, certain types of radioactive waste, irradiated nuclear fuel, and the mining & processing of radioactive ores & minerals.