

MOD ADMIT 10 RADIATION LEAKS AT DEVONPORT

Oct 1998

Radiation has leaked on 10 occasions at Devonport Dockyard since 1980 according to a recent MoD admission. In a written reply to Lid Dem MP Norman Baker Junior Defence Minister John Spellar listed 50 unintentional radiation leaks from British dockyards since 1980. 33 leaks at the Trident base at Faslane, 7 at Rosyth and 10 at Devonport. The total of three cubic metres of radioactive liquid came mostly from radioactive cooling water from submarine reactors. At Devonport, the worst incident was in 1985 when over a third of a cubic metre of radioactive material was spilled. Although said to be "insignificant" by the minister, DIG are concerned that the admission proves that accidents can and do happen. DIG is to seek further details about the leaks from the MoD.