



Subject: **Summary of the main points from the NFLA Steering Committee Meeting, City Hall, London, 24 March 2006**

1. **DTI Energy Review**

The Secretary reported on: a briefing prepared by the NFLA(Scotland) Policy Adviser, and circulated to all NFLAs, to assist member authorities' responses to the Energy Review; assistance provide to the Local Government Association for England and Wales in the formulation of its response to the Energy Review; the planned preparation of submissions by the Forums in Scotland, Wales and Ireland to the Energy Review; and attendance by the Legal Adviser at a DTI seminar on 9 March about the Energy Review. The study from the Sustainable Development Commission about the Energy Review saying nuclear power was not necessary to meet future energy needs was reported together with the study commissioned jointly by the Mayor of London and Greenpeace showing the potential to meet the Capital's energy needs without nuclear power. The Legal Adviser had also secured a commitment from the Energy Minister to consult further publicly should the Energy Review conclude that new nuclear build is needed.

Note: All NFLA submissions to the Energy Review are posted on the NFLA website (www.nuclearpolicy.info)

2. **Radioactive Waste Management Policy**

The Secretary reported on the public consultation by DEFRA and the devolved administrations on low level radioactive waste management policy. It was agreed that a briefing about the consultation be prepared to assist member authorities (see: www.nuclearpolicy.info). It was further agreed that the Committee respond by the 31 May deadline with its own submission. Other issues raised included: a decision by the Environment Agency for England and Wales to permit further disposal of radioactive waste at the national LLW repository near Drigg despite recognition that the site is at risk from seawater inundation within a few centuries and possibly sooner if global warming gathers pace; the outcome of the second meeting of the ISOLUS project management group meeting on 17 March 2006 which decided to arrange a workshop to establish a new stakeholder advisory group; and progress with the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management which was expected to publish its draft recommendations in early May (see: www.corwm.org.uk). Dr Mark Dutton and Prof Andrew Blowers of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management attended the NFLA Steering Committee meeting to report on progress with CoRWM's programme, explain the next steps, and take questions.



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3. **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**

The Secretary reported on: the NFLA submission to the Trade Industry Committee about the NDA draft strategy; the consideration being given by the NDA to restarting the Sellafield THORP plant; work by the Wales Forum and All Ireland Forum to oppose the extended operation by the NDA of the Wylfa nuclear station; and a warning by the European Commission to British Nuclear Group Sellafield Ltd (a division of BNFL) for breaching EURATOM safeguards by failing to adequately account for on site plutonium.

4. **Draft Security Regulations: Consultation**

The Legal Adviser reported on a detailed submission he had prepared in response to proposed new Security Regulations that could severely limit information on new nuclear development and undermine public scrutiny through the planning process.

5. **UK Nuclear Weapons Policy: Trident Replacement and Aldermaston Development**

The NFLA Secretary reported on submissions to the Parliamentary Defence Committee inquiry into the Future of the Strategic Nuclear Deterrent on behalf of the Committee and on behalf of the UK Mayors for Peace working group. Both submissions challenged the justification for extending the UK's commitment to a nuclear deterrent capability well into the mid 21st century.

6. **NFLA (Scotland) Seminar**

The NFLA (Scotland) Secretary highlighted a planned seminar on the Energy Review to be hosted by Edinburgh City Council on 9 June. For details see: www.nuclearpolicy.info or contact: cathy.birrell@ced.glasgow.gov.uk.

7. **English Nuclear Free Futures Forum Seminar**

The English Forum Secretary reported on proposals for a seminar on the Energy Review to be hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council on 30 June. For details see: www.nuclearpolicy.info or contact sean.morris@leeds.gov.uk.

8. **Wales Forum**

The Wales Forum intends to write to all Welsh councillors about the work it undertakes and has given its support to the Keep Wales Nuclear Free coalition.

9. **All Ireland Forum**

The newly formed All Ireland Forum continues to gather members. Monaghan County Council had now joined and Donegal County Council has membership under consideration. Sligo, Dublin, Galway, and Meath County Council representatives at the Joint Irish and UK conference (see next item) all agreed to raise the matter of affiliation in their councils. The Forum is looking to September 2006 to organise a promotional seminar in Drogheda. Further information from peterburt@phonecoop.coop.

10. **8th Joint Irish & UK Local Authorities Conference on Nuclear Hazards, London 23 March 2006**

A CD with collated conference papers is available from the NFLA Secretariat.

For more information on any of the above matters contact:
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