



Date: 4 August 2006

No. 56

Subject: **Summary of the main points from the NFLA Steering Committee Meeting, County Hall, Nottinghamshire, 30 June 2006**

## 1. DTI Energy Review

The Secretary reported on the submissions to the Government Energy Review by: The NFLA Secretariat; the NFLA (Scotland) Steering Committee; the All Ireland NFLA Forum; and the Wales NFLA Forum. These submissions can be downloaded from the NFLA website at [www.nuclearpolicy.info](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info). They set out a strong case for meeting our energy needs without resort to nuclear power.

During the Energy Review, and shortly before the NFLA meeting, the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee reported on its inquiry into options for meeting future UK energy needs. The EAC saw no necessity to resort to nuclear energy. NFLAs contributed evidence during the course of the Environmental Audit Committee's inquiry.

A well attended seminar on the Energy Review preceded the NFLA Steering Committee meeting. Joan Walley MP, EAC Vice Chair, spoke at the Seminar to brief participants on the results of her Committee's work. Nottinghamshire County Council and national officers from Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth spoke in the seminar programme.

Jamie Woolley, NFLA Legal Adviser, is currently reviewing: regulatory requirements which would need to be met if a developer wished to invest in one or more new nuclear stations; changes which the industry is seeking to facilitate a reduction in regulatory risk (see below); and the period of time required to obtain all necessary consents.

The Government initiated a further round of public consultation in mid July with the publication of *The Energy Challenge*. The consultation seeks views on proposed changes to planning law to enable nuclear build. Members will be briefed separately on this well before the consultation deadline in 31 October 2006.

## 2. Radioactive Waste Management Policy

The Secretary reported on two submission by the Steering Committee, firstly in response to the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management's draft recommendations to Government and secondly in response to a consultation by DEFRA and the devolved administrations on low level radioactive waste management policy. Both NFLA submissions can be found at: [www.nuclearpolicy.info](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info).

Note: On 31 July the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management finally reported its recommendations to Government: see: [www.corwm.org.uk](http://www.corwm.org.uk). An NFLA statement on the recommendations is available on the NFLA website.



**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES**

### 3. **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**

The Secretary reported on the cost of managing nuclear liabilities. The NDA has revised its costs from about £56bn to about £70bn and rising. In addition British Energy liabilities are now estimated at £14bn and long-term radioactive waste management costs at around £15bn to £20bn. MoD estimates its current nuclear liabilities at about £10 billion putting total UK nuclear costs in the region of £100 - £110 billion.

### 4. **NFLA Membership Growth**

The Development Adviser introduced a report that recapped progress with membership and other promotional work. The affiliation of Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Bridgend County Borough Council, Moyle District Council, Bray Town Council and Dundalk Town Council were all warmly welcomed whilst the withdrawal from membership of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council was very much regretted.

The current upward trend in membership is expected to continue with several more Irish councils soon to decide on NFLA affiliation and the number of membership inquiries received by the NFLA Secretariat increasing.

However, the NFLA budget in the current financial year remains very tight and so it was with much regret that the Steering Committee decided to end the present contract with Peter Burt, the NFLA Development Adviser, though he will continue to be engaged on a project by project basis (see next item).

### 5. **All Ireland NFLA Seminar, 30 September 2006, Drogheda, Ireland**

The Forum will hold its first seminar on 30 September 2006 in Drogheda. The Prime Minister has said that nuclear power is back on the agenda 'with a vengeance' and the seminar will seek to:

- assess the implications for Ireland of a new nuclear programme in the UK
- further develop the All Ireland NFLA Forum to campaign for safe and sustainable alternatives to nuclear power

Programme and Registration details can be downloaded from the NFLA website. Alternatively they can be obtained from: [peterburt@phonecoop.coop](mailto:peterburt@phonecoop.coop).

### 6. **NFLA AGM & Annual Policy Briefing 2006, 7 & 8 December 2006, Leeds**

The 2006 AGM and Annual Policy Briefing will take place in the Civic Hall, Leeds. The programme will focus on changes to planning law and regulatory assessment now being considered to smooth the way for new nuclear stations. Expert speakers will be invited. A first announcement and registration details will follow in September.

### 7. **Date and venue for the NFLA Steering Committee meeting**

11.00am, Friday, 15 September 2006, Town Hall, Manchester

For more information on any of the above matters contact:  
Stewart Kemp 0161 234 3244 or email: [skemp@nuclearpolicy.info](mailto:skemp@nuclearpolicy.info)