

NOTES OF MEETING WITH NFLA – 14 July 2000

Present: Cllr Ken Wyatt (Chair), Stewart Kemp (Secretary), Jamie Woolley (Legal Advisor) plus 24 other members, Chris Murray and John Dalton

Notes:

These are brief notes of the main points raised at this meeting.

Meeting was held in the Kennet Room of the Reading Civic Centre and Ken Wyatt introduced Chris Murray and John Dalton. He also explained that we had a hour as various members wanted to catch trains and they had a full agenda.

Chris went through the “Cumbria Presentation” in about 40 minutes.

Ken Wyatt thanked Chris and stated that they were keen to have a dialogue with Nirex, that he was pleased that the credibility problems had been addressed head-on.

Questions then came from the floor as follows.

- It was flagged that Nirex’s ownership was a major problem, and we will always be seen as part of the industry who want to continue to operate nuclear power stations. This will mean that we will give biased information as we will have a vested interest in the continuation of nuclear power generation.

ACTION: Nirex to feed back into Consultation process

- It was stated that the long-term effects of the backfill could not have been tried and tested and therefore there was no way of saying that this was going to be safe.

ACTION: Nirex to reply

- Chris was then asked why Nirex have not released the names of the sites. In questioning it was made clear that members felt that the list of say 500 sites, not just the short-listed ones should be released, with reasons as to why they appeared on the list, plus any changes in approach that could yield a different result. It was reiterated by members of the audience that it would not be possible to have a meaningful dialogue with local authorities until previously considered sites were on the table. An adult approach was needed - they did not want to be protected. The main reason for release would be to raise the profile of the issue and enable a debate to take place. It would allow people to prepare for the Consultation in a focused way.

ACTION: Nirex to discuss further with NFLA and feed back into Consultation process

- It was pointed out that one of Nirex’s objectives was given as assisting Government with legal and planning review. However, as Government has stated that it wants a top down approach this would disenfranchise local government. It is seen as essential that local communities are involved in the debate on concepts and that they are not left to deal with site specific details.

ACTION: Nirex to clarify to NFLA what its response to Government in this matter had been - and what Nirex's attitude is.

- It was pointed out that Michael Meacher has denied that he has a list of sites and Nirex was urged to give him the list so they could get it from him.

ACTION: Nirex to reflect this and other aspects on release of site names to DETR

- Nirex was asked to give a legal undertaking that we would abide by the provisions of the Freedom of Access to Environmental Information legislation. It was pointed out that BNFL would not do so and as they were the majority shareholder it was thought that Nirex would be bound by their approach. Chris gave an assurance that whatever the legal position, Nirex would abide by its Transparency Policy.

ACTION: Nirex to clarify legal position and re-iterate commitment to transparency

- It was pointed out that the recent UKAEA consultation had presented pre-prepared options which had been created without stakeholder participation. This did not give the impression that the industry had learnt the lessons of the need for EARLY involvement of stakeholders in any consultation.

ACTION: Nirex to feed back to UKAEA (and rest of industry, plus DETR and DTI). Cross check with DETR that Consultation process takes this into account.

The agenda item of the meeting was closed and Chris Murray and John Dalton left. Mr. Kemp and Mr. Woolley thanked us and **John Dalton agreed** to contact Mr. Kemp and in the near future to continue the dialogue.

Conclusion

In summary we felt that from our point of view it had been a worthwhile meeting which had raised a number of valuable points for us to take into account. It is essential that we continue to discuss issues with the NFLA.

John Dalton
Corporate Communications Manager

17 July 2000