

Nuclear Free Local Authorities

briefing



Date: 20 October 2000

Subject: Summary of NFLA AGM, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, 15 September 2000

1. Annual Report

The NFLA Secretary introduced a report setting out the main areas of work of the NFLA Steering Committee over the last 12 months, briefly recapping the range of services provided for member authorities including legal advice; policy advice; reports and information; parliamentary and media promotion; a member enquiry service; and regular conference and seminar organisation. Policy priorities had included the promotion of sustainable approaches to future radioactive waste management; research and legal work to reduce hazards at nuclear reprocessing sites at Sellafield and Dounreay; action to challenge discharge authorisations at a number of nuclear sites; and alerting local authorities to the potential implications of increasing incidents where radioactive sources or contaminated metals had entered the feedstock for the metals recycling industry. Reports from the English Forum, Wales Forum, Scottish Steering Committee and the Arms Conversion Project were also received.

2. Financial Report

The AGM considered a report on the income and expenditure for the NFLA Steering Committee in financial year 1999/2000 and considered estimates for income and expenditure in financial year 2000/2001 and financial year 2001/2002. In Financial Year 1999/2000 the Secretary reported a slight overspend of £2,000. The AGM agreed to increase affiliation fees by 3% in the coming financial year to take account of projected inflation. Member authorities are asked to note the revised rates below and make budgetary provision in FY 2001/2002:

Population	Affiliation Fee
over one million	£4,291
500k - one million	£3,066
200k - 500k	£1,833
100k - 200k	£1,124
up to 100k	£ 708

3. Membership

The AGM received a report detailing membership at October 1999 and at September 2000. In that period membership had fallen from 110 local authorities to 99. Several new councils had affiliation under consideration and NFLA work would be further promoted in 2001.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



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4. **Election of Chair and Vice Chairs**

There was no change. Councillor Ken Wyatt, Rotherham MBC, was nominated and confirmed as NFLA Chair to the 2001 AGM. Councillor George Regan, Dundee City Council, was nominated and confirmed as NFLA Vice Chair (Scotland). Councillor Bill Risby, Manchester City Council, was nominated and confirmed NFLA Vice Chair (England). There was no meeting in advance of the AGM by Welsh members because of travel disruption caused by the fuel distribution crisis. Therefore Councillor Peter Lloyd, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, would continue as NFLA Vice Chair (Wales) through to the Forum's next meeting.

5. **Resolutions**

Three resolutions were carried (27 authorities present):

1. **Nuclear Power & Climate Change**

1. *Nuclear power is not a clean energy source and should not be seen as part of the solution to global warming and other environmental problems. The nuclear fuel cycle is a significant source of CO2 emissions, causes radioactive contamination of the air, water and land, is highly expensive, imposes a risk to public safety, and encourages the proliferation of weapons.*
2. *Construction of nuclear reactors diverts limited funds from more effective means of combating global warming. Governments, international banking institutions, and industry should invest in energy systems that address global warming and provide clean power and transportation to the world's people. Implementation of energy efficiency measures is seven times more effective at reducing greenhouse gases per dollar spent than is nuclear power.*
3. *Nuclear power should not play a role in the on-going international negotiations on how to combat global warming.*

We therefore call on the UK Government to:

reject nuclear power as an answer to the climate change problem when Governments gather in the Netherlands, November 2000, at the 6th Conference of the Parties (COP6) to the Kyoto Protocol.

reject attempts to include nuclear power in the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism so that industrialised countries are not encouraged to offset their greenhouse gas emissions by funding nuclear power projects in developing countries.

support the provision of international development aid and funding to promote clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

2. **Renewable Capacity**

This conference of Nuclear Free Local Authorities:

- a) *taking account of the Government's target of increasing electricity produced from renewable sources to 10% by 2010;*

- b) *noting member authorities' difficulties in finding suppliers with renewable electricity for sale at the present time;*
 - c) *hearing that renewable electricity technologies operate in an unfavourable financial market in the UK but that this is not the case in other EU member states;*
 - d) *bearing in mind the Energy Saving Trust's Powershift Programme, which in the Cleaner Fuelled Vehicles sector does address this difficulty;*
 - e) *noting that a robust renewable electricity industry will provide a sustainable alternative to that derived from nuclear sources in the near future;*
1. *CALLS on the Government to introduce economic instruments to support the initiation and development of the market for technologies producing renewable electricity, both for suppliers and users;*
 2. *INSTRUCTS the Secretary to send copies of this resolution to relevant Ministers and the Local Government Association.*

3. **National Missile Defence**

This AGM is deeply appalled by the implications for international security, and consequently for local communities, resulting from any development of the US national missile defence programme.

This AGM therefore insists that the UK Government states clearly that it will not assist this programme by permitting the use of either Menwith Hill or the Fylingdales Stations for US NMD purposes.

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