

Nuclear Free Local Authorities Secretariat

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Chair: Bailie George Regan Secretary: Sean Morris



Mike Weightman
HM Chief Inspector,
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15th April 2011

Emailed to: FukushimaONRReport@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Mr Weightman,

ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN UK NUCLEAR SAFETY REVIEW FOLLOWING THE FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI INCIDENT – SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE FROM THE NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Following the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) submission of initial issues for the UK nuclear safety review in light of the Fukushima incident, we have become aware of the decisions made yesterday by a major nuclear safety conference organised by the IAEA in Vienna. I attach articles from Bloomberg and Engineering & Technology Magazine as Appendix 1 below.

The major outcome of this 72 nation 'Convention on Nuclear Safety', considering the implications of the Fukushima incident on nuclear safety, was to not make any firm decisions until **after** the incident was fully under control.

This decision is welcomed by the NFLA and goes to the heart of our central point in the submission to the NII safety review – that a six month review is too hasty and will not come to all the correct conclusions whilst the Fukushima incident is still running. Indeed the Convention have agreed not to hold an extraordinary meeting until August 2012 to allow for more robust analysis to take place and a more considered review agreed upon.

In the light of this, the NFLA recommends that the Weightman review also extends the time-limit for consideration of UK nuclear safety. It further recommends that all nuclear new-build developments should be halted until final conclusions on nuclear safety post-Fukushima can be accurately made.

Yours sincerely,



Bailie George Regan
Chair of UK and Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Articles on nuclear safety conference delay to consider Fukushima incident

Nuclear Regulators Delay Study of Fukushima Lessons Until 2012

By Jonathan Tirone, Bloomberg News, - Apr 14, 2011 1:14 PM GMT+0100 Thu Apr 14 12:14:21 GMT 2011

Nuclear powers ended a closed-door meeting by delaying for 16 months consideration of the failures that triggered the meltdown at Japan's Fukushima Dai-Ichi plant.

The 72-nation Convention on Nuclear Safety pledged to hold an extraordinary meeting in August 2012 to review the breakdown of safety systems at Fukushima, according to a seven-paragraph statement released today in Vienna.

"It is understood that the lessons-learned process cannot be completed until sufficient additional information is known and fully analyzed," according to the statement. "Japan has committed to provide this information as soon as possible."

Backup generators and cooling systems at the Fukushima Dai- Ichi station were knocked out by a 15-meter (49-foot) tsunami following a magnitude-9 earthquake on March 11, triggering the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986. Hydrogen explosions occurred as water in the reactors and spent-fuel ponds boiled away and radiation leaked into the air and sea.

Japan's representative to the meeting, Ichiro Ogasawara, thanked the regulators and industry participants for their "solidarity in the course of the review meeting" during "this crucial juncture in the history of the convention."

Signatories to the treaty, drafted after the 1986 Chernobyl meltdown in Ukraine, will also evaluate whether the convention does enough to promote nuclear safety when they meet next year.

"Nuclear safety is the very lifeline of nuclear power development," China's Li Ganjie, who presided at the meeting that began April 4 and ended today, said at a briefing. "It is a global issue. Members of the public have anxiety about nuclear safety issues."

Nuclear forum backs atomic safety campaign after Japan crisis

14 April 2011

By Sofia Mitra-Thakur, Engineering and Technology Magazine

Nuclear regulators say they will act upon lessons from the Japan nuclear crisis and are backing a UN-led campaign to strengthen atomic safety.

Japan's month-long struggle to stabilise the Fukushima nuclear power plant after it was damaged by an earthquake and tsunami has prompted a rethink about atomic power worldwide with some countries putting plans on hold.

Nuclear regulators from 72 nations have held a conference in Vienna to review the 1996 Convention on Nuclear Safety which has been dominated by the need to strengthen safety after the Fukushima Daiichi disaster.

"We are committed to draw and act upon the lessons of the Fukushima accident," they said in a joint statement.

The forum said it would hold a special meeting on Japan next year to improve safety, and support plans for a nuclear safety conference in June focusing on Fukushima, to be hosted by UN atomic agency the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The meeting will aim to improve nuclear safety and draw lessons from Fukushima, the most serious nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986, said IAEA chief Yukiya Amano.

Japan developments have put the IAEA's ability to handle nuclear crises in the spotlight as it lacks the power to enforce the standards it recommends, which some countries and analysts argue needs to change to help guard against future disasters.