



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Ireland Seminar

The nuclear challenge and Ireland - the key risks to Ireland of a new nuclear build and Trident replacement programme across the Irish Sea

Date: 19th March 2010

Location: Council Chamber, Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry, County Armagh, Northern Ireland

The UK Government has announced its desire for a major development of new nuclear power generation as part of an 'energy mix' to reduce carbon emissions, mitigate climate change and provide greater energy security. A consultation has taken place (closing date is 22nd February) where 10 sites have been nominated for new nuclear power stations, including four on the English and Welsh Irish Sea coast.

What are the implications of this for Ireland? Irish local authorities have been particularly concerned about the effects of low level radiation from discharges into the Irish Sea – does new nuclear build potentially exacerbate this? A German Government study suggests negative health effects from proximity to nuclear sites, while the NFLA Ireland Forum have at previous meetings heard worrying statistics around the effects of radiation on the Irish east coast. This seminar will provide Councils with further information on the risks of low-level radiation.

Ireland – north and south – are also pursuing renewable energy for its own needs as a clear alternative to nuclear power. This seminar gives a best practice study of the Dundalk 2020 Sustainable Energy Zone, which covers the cross border areas of County Armagh and County Louth. Should other zones in Ireland be created and will they produce all of its energy needs?

Finally, both the UK and Irish Governments will shortly be attending the critical Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the United Nations in May 2010. This conference will provide one of the best opportunities for nuclear weapons reduction in a generation. Irish Councils can provide their own positive contribution by joining the Hiroshima and Nagasaki-led Mayors for Peace organisation. This seminar will provide further details on the issue and how to join Mayors for Peace.

The seminar is open to all councillors, council officers and interested groups across Ireland.

DRAFT PROGRAMME (Speakers may be subject to change)

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| 10.30am | Registration |
| 11.00am | Opening welcome by Newry and Mourne Councillor and the Joint Chair of Irish Nuclear Free Local Authorities, Councillor Michael Carr |
| 11.05am | Low-level radiation and public health risk from the nuclear industry - Dr Ian Fairlie, independent consultant on radiation (confirmed) |
| 11.35am | How should Ireland react to new nuclear build in the UK - Lisa Fagan, Interim Director, Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland (invited) |
| 12.00pm | Promoting renewable energy in Ireland, the local authority role (using the Dundalk 2020 cross-border programme as a case-study) - Larry Staudt, Dundalk Centre for Renewable Energy (invited) |
| 12.25pm | Mayors for Peace, nuclear weapons proliferation and Trident replacement - Sean Morris, UK Mayors for Peace Secretary (confirmed) |
| 12.45pm | Panel discussion, chaired by Councillor Mark Dearey (Dundalk TC), Joint Chair of Irish Nuclear Free Local Authorities |
| 1.00pm | Seminar conclusion, followed by short 30 minute NFLA Ireland business meeting |



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Registration Details

The seminar is a free event open to all NFLA members and officers and local interested community groups.

If you are planning to attend, could you please fill in the appropriate details and post, email or fax to the address at the bottom of this form:

Name	Authority / Group	Correspondence address (email or postal)

Venue:

Newry and Mourne Civic Offices are off Monaghan Row in the city centre. To download a map go to Google maps and type in the postcode BT35 8DL. The train station is a 10 minute walk to the Council Offices and is on the main Dublin – Belfast train link.

Hotels in and around Newry:

Failte Hotel Newry, 4 Sugarhouse Quay BT35 6HZ 02830 252560

Canal Court Hotel, Merchants Quay, BT35 8HF 02830 251234

Belmont Hall Hotel, 18 Devonshire Road 02830 262163

Francis Court Hotel, 13 – 19 Franics Street, BT35 8BQ

Mourne Country Hotel, 52 Belfast Road, BT34 1TR 02830 267922

Please return this form to: Stephen Cooper, NFLA Ireland Secretary -

stephen.cooper@newryandmourne.gov.uk Fax: 02830 264482 Tel: 02830 313096

Or contact the NFLA UK and Ireland Secretariat – s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk Tel: 0161 234 3244