



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

**NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**NFLA All Ireland Forum seminar considers two major energy issues –**

- **What are the main risks to Ireland of a UK new nuclear programme?**
- **What would be the impact of a major Irish onshore wind programme?**

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) All Ireland Forum holds its latest seminar in Fingal County Hall, Swords this Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> (1).

The seminar will be considering two very important energy matters – the radiological risks to Ireland of a UK new nuclear programme; and the potential impact on Ireland if a major onshore wind energy programme is fully approved and developed. Four excellent speakers will provide councillors and council officers with an overview of both debates.

The speakers include:

- Dr Ciara McMahon, radiation specialist for the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII). Ciara will provide the key findings of its recently published study of the radiological risks to Ireland of a UK new nuclear programme. NFLA welcomes that the RPII have decided to engage directly with it on this report by speaking at this seminar. (2)
- Dr Ian Fairlie, independent consultant on radioactivity in the environment and former member of the CERRIE committee (3). Ian will provide his assessment of the RPII report and wider issues over low level radiation and health in Irish Sea coastal communities.
- Grattan Healy, joint co-ordinator of the Irish National Offshore Wind Association and Board Member of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). Grattan will consider the implications of developing a major series of large onshore wind developments in the Midlands – potential sites have been mooted in Meath, Laois, Longford and Kildare. (4)
- Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary, will consider current issues it is pursuing in addition to these two debates. This includes its recent report on fuel poverty, concerns over a leak of the HMS Tireless submarine and the impressive development of a new European development – ‘Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe’ (5).

NFLA All Ireland Forum Co-Chair, Councillor Michael Carr said:

“The NFLA All Ireland Forum is obviously very concerned of the many issues that will arise for Ireland if new nuclear power stations are built on the west coast of England and Wales. For years I have been concerned about the effects of discharges from the Sellafield site to the coast of Ireland. I want to hear from Dr McMahon and Dr Fairlie what building more nuclear reactors may mean for discharges into the Irish Sea and the wider risks of building new coastal nuclear facilities. This seminar will definitely help me and other councillors know more about the risks involved and I am delighted we have such a range of expert speakers in a debate Ireland, both north and south, must become more involved with.”

NFLA All Ireland Forum Co-Chair, Councillor Mark Dearey added:

“Both the debate on UK new nuclear and Irish onshore wind energy is essential in determining the type of energy future is required across Ireland and Britain. I fully believe that should be a combination of a wide renewable energy mix, energy efficiency and microgeneration. I urge councillors to attend this seminar so they can make their own minds up and help to be part of a new local energy revolution.”

Ends

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES**



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**Further information** - Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary - 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930196.

## Notes to editors:

- (1) Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum Seminar:  
**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013, Fingal County Hall, Main Street, Swords, North County Dublin**  
***Key energy issues affecting Ireland –***
  - **What are the risks to Ireland of a UK new nuclear programme?**
  - **Ireland's onshore wind – an answer to low carbon energy in the British and Irish Isles?**
  - **Fuel poverty in Ireland – how do we alleviate it?**

11.00 Opening introductions.  
11.05 RPII report on the radiological risks to Ireland of a UK new nuclear programme – Dr Ciara McMahon, Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland.  
11.30 An independent assessment of the radiological risks to Ireland for a UK new nuclear programme – Dr Ian Fairlie, independent consultant on radioactivity in the environment.  
11.55 The proposed major onshore wind development in the Irish Midlands: a key answer to a low carbon future or too large for Ireland? – Grattan Healy, Board Member of the Strategic Energy Authority of Ireland and co-founder of the National Offshore Wind Association of Ireland (confirmed)  
12.20 Recent issues the NFLA are pursuing – Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary  
12.35 Panel discussion.  
1.00 Seminar conclusion.
- (2) RPII report can be accessed at <http://www.rpii.ie/site/Publications.aspx>
- (3) Dr Fairlie was a member of the UK independent 'Committee Examining Radiation Risks of Internal Emitters' <http://www.cerrie.org>. Further information on his recent scientific research can be found at his website <http://www.ianfairlie.org>
- (4) See NFLA Policy Briefings 109 and 110 on the NFLA website <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>.

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