



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 13th September 2012
NFLA welcomes Galway City Council as its newest member

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) All Ireland Forum welcomes the decision of Galway City Council to formally agree to join it as its newest member (1).

Galway City Council is the first west coast Irish Council to join the Forum, joining with many east coast Councils like Louth County, Dundalk Town, Fingal County, Newry & Mourne District and Wexford Borough Council. Councillor Colette Connolly of Galway City Council was instrumental in encouraging the Council to join the NFLA.

These Councils also co-operate with like-minded Councils in England, Scotland and Wales because they are concerned over the risks to Ireland of nuclear discharges, nuclear shipments and potential nuclear emergency incidents from reactors across the Irish Sea. They are all alarmed by the prospects of increased risk from a planned expansion of the UK new nuclear build programme. They also share in the NFLA's alternative energy vision which includes a combination of a wide renewable energy mix, energy efficiency programmes and the encouragement of local community microgeneration projects to secure Ireland's future energy needs and mitigate the effects of climate change (2).

Councillor Colette Connolly said:

"The risks associated with nuclear power are being revised upwards following the Fukushima disaster in Japan. Yet the UK government alone is intent on nuclear expansion through building 14 nuclear power stations and the possible opening of a new plutonium reprocessing facility at Sellafield that will increase the risk of radioactive discharges into the Irish Sea. In my view, the NFLA's promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency can provide for the energy needs for each country without recourse to new nuclear power generation."

NFLA All Ireland Forum Co-Chair Councillor Mark Dearey said:

"I warmly welcome Galway City Council as the newest member of our Forum. Their support will prove invaluable in showing that all Irish councils on the island of Ireland should prominently raise concerns over the risks to the country of the UK's nuclear programme, whilst ensuring that Ireland retains its own legal 'nuclear-free' status. It also allows further promotion of an alternative renewable energy vision that the west coast of Ireland is particularly well located to benefit from."

The NFLA All Ireland Forum Co-Chairs and NFLA officers will be shortly meeting with officials from the Irish Government Environment Department to discuss concerns over nuclear risks across the Irish Sea and encouraging the Government in becoming much more vocal in raising those concerns with the UK Government and through international organisations like the OSPAR Commission (3).

The Forum will also be holding its autumn seminar for councillors and council officers in Down District Council Civic Centre, Downpatrick on Friday 12th October. Confirmed speakers include South Down MP and former SDLP Leader Margaret Ritchie, Ciara McMahon of the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland, NFLA Secretary Sean Morris and a speaker from the group 'Action for Renewables'. (4)

Ends

Further information - Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary - 00 44 161 234 3244 or 00 44 7771 930186.
Councillor Colette Connolly - 091 589 920 or 086 360 64 05

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



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Notes to editors:

- (1) Galway City Council decided to join the NFLA All Ireland Forum at its Council meeting earlier this week.
- (2) For the NFLA's views on how Ireland can take forward its energy policy download its Policy Briefing – [http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/A201_\(NB87\)_Ireland_and_renewable_energy.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/A201_(NB87)_Ireland_and_renewable_energy.pdf)
- (3) The NFLA will be meeting the Republic of Ireland Government to discuss nuclear risks on the 2nd October in Dublin. The OSPAR Commission is an inter-governmental commission that seeks to clean up the marine environment around the North East Atlantic area. The Irish and UK Governments are both members of OSPAR.
- (4) NFLA All Ireland Forum Seminar, Down District Council, Civic Centre, Downpatrick, Northern Ireland, Friday 12th October 2012.

Key energy and nuclear policy issues affecting Ireland – should it be concerned about UK new nuclear build and how can it take advantage of renewable energy?

PROGRAMME -

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| 10.30am | Registration. |
| 11.00am | Opening welcomes by Councillor Eamonn O'Neill, Down District Council and Councillor Michael Carr, Newry & Mourne District Council and Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum. |
| 11.05am | Should Ireland be concerned about new nuclear developments across the Irish Sea? – Margaret Ritchie, MP for South Down (confirmed) |
| 11.30am | Analysis of the risks of the UK's new nuclear programme – Ciara McMahon, Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (confirmed) |
| 11.55pm | Nuclear risks in the UK and across the open seas, the NFLA view – Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary (confirmed) |
| 12.20pm | Evolution or revolution – how could Ireland (North and South) develop renewable energy? Speaker from Belfast-based Action Renewables (invited) |
| 12.35pm | Panel discussion chaired by the Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum, Councillor Mark Dearey, Dundalk Town Council. |
| 1.00pm | Seminar conclusion. |

The seminar is free to councils and registration for it is available by email Sinead Trainor, NFLA All Ireland Forum Secretary – sinead.trainor@newryandmourne.gov.uk

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