



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

**NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

## **NFLA welcomes the decision of RWE Npower and E-On decision to halt nuclear new build investment - now is the time to re-focus UK energy policy**

The decision announced today by RWE Npower and E-on that they are halting all investment in their 'Horizon' consortium to build new nuclear reactors at Wylfa in Anglesey and Oldbury in Gloucestershire is warmly welcomed by the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) (1).

The decision by the German utilities comes on the back of the German Government's decision to phase out nuclear power and, more fundamentally, on a hard-headed decision that there is no positive investment climate or adequate public subsidies to deliver a new nuclear programme at their preferred sites.

This follows on from continuing comments made by energy finance specialists from the likes of Citibank and BNP Paribas that there is a weak investment climate for new nuclear build reactors unless significant Government support is not provided (2). Today's decision by RWE Npower and E-On is definitive evidence that major energy utilities do not believe that the UK Government or private finance will be forthcoming to invest the billions required to build new nuclear power stations.

Along with the issues this leaves for developing new reactors at Wylfa and Oldbury, the NFLA now also urges Centrica to withdraw its planned investment in a new reactor at Hinkley Point, which financial investors have been questioning in recent public statements (3). The decision of the German utilities also indicates the popular view that a decentralised energy policy developing renewable energy, energy efficiency and microgeneration is the sensible way forward. The NFLA now urges the UK Government to re-focus its energy policy to follow the progressive German way forward.

The NFLA calls on the Councils where new nuclear facilities are being proposed to reassess their own support for such projects and start developing the type of local decentralised energy policy that the NFLA espouses (4).

Today the NFLA Welsh Forum Chair Councillor Stephen Churchman addressed the Welsh Assembly's Environmental and Sustainability Committee considering the future direction of Welsh energy policy. The decision by RWE and E-On was the centre of discussion at this meeting and Councillor Churchman asserted the NFLA view that decentralised community-led renewable energy policy is the way forward for Wales (5).

NFLA Vice Chair Councillor Audrey Doig said:

"I am pleased that RWE and E-On have seen sense and decided to ditch their plans to develop new nuclear reactors at Wylfa and Oldbury. I encourage Centrica and other energy utilities to reassess their own nuclear policies in the light of this decision and discourage energy companies from considering taking on Horizon's sites. The time has surely come to end the myth that there is money available for new nuclear power and rather invest our limited resources into a decentralised renewable energy policy that is clean, sustainable, job rich and beneficial to our country's energy future."

NFLA Vice Chair and NFLA Welsh Forum Chair Councillor Stephen Churchman added:

"I advocated to the Welsh Assembly the need for an enlightened energy policy which includes a wide renewable energy mix, a major expansion of community-led local microgeneration energy projects

### **THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES**



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

and a concerted energy efficiency programme to insulate Welsh homes and reduce the problem of fuel poverty. I now urge the Welsh Government to reassess its new energy policy supporting a Wylfa B development, which I believe is now dead in the water. As NFLA Wales Chair I also urge Anglesey (Ynys Mon) Council to stop putting all its energy and economic eggs in the Wylfa B basket and rather develop an 'Energy Island' policy that taps into Anglesey's great potential for renewable energy production."

Ends

**Further information** - Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930186.

## **Notes to editors:**

- (1) See E-On media release for confirmation of the decision, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012.  
<http://pressreleases.eon-uk.com/blogs//eonukpressreleases/archive/2012/03/29/1802.aspx>
- (2) 'Investment climate not good, government support for nuclear needed, financial analyst says'.  
I-nuclear.com, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012.  
<http://www.inuclear.com/2012/03/21/investment-climate-not-good-govt-suuprt-for-nuclear-needed-financial-analyst-says>
- (3) For example see 'City presses Centrica to cancel plans for building new nuclear power plants',  
The Guardian, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012.  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2011/jul/25/centrica-nuclear-power-stations>
- (4) See NFLA future energy reports for England, Ireland Scotland and Wales.  
<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
- (5) NFLA submission to the Welsh Assembly energy inquiry, September 2011.  
[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/consultations/NFLA\\_Welsh\\_Assembly\\_energy\\_inquiry\\_submission.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/consultations/NFLA_Welsh_Assembly_energy_inquiry_submission.pdf)

---

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES**