



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 29th October 2014

NFLA Scotland Forum seminar considers nuclear decommissioning, nuclear decontamination and waste issues, nuclear transportation concerns and an alternative nuclear free future

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) Scotland Forum is meeting in Perth City Chambers this Friday, 31st October, where it will be considering some of the key nuclear policy and energy policy issues affecting Scotland. (1)

The first issue considered in the seminar is, given the Scottish Government's opposition to new nuclear build, the nuclear sector is beginning what is likely to be the last decade of full operation in Scotland. How can local communities regenerate when the nuclear reactor is switched off and 'care and maintenance' of each site takes place? Eann Sinclair of the Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership will talk to councillors around the positive work it is doing in regenerating areas around Dounreay.

The NFLA Secretary, Sean Morris, will profile its recently published report on the development of local authority energy policies. NFLA believe Local Authorities can play a focal part in Scotland's energy generation future, through the development of Local Authority Energy Service Companies. With sufficient government backing, sensible decision making and a considerable amount of political will and imagination Councils can, and are already becoming, conduits for the development of a wide renewable energy mix, a concerted energy efficiency programme alleviating fuel poverty, and the creation of a profusion of exciting community energy projects.

The seminar will also consider the complex issues in dealing with Scotland's radioactive legacy after 60 years of nuclear generation. The NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor Pete Roche will analyse the issues with the decontamination of Dalgety Bay in Fife and areas close to Dounreay in Caithness. He will also consider the real risks with aging nuclear reactors like Hunterston and focus on the local concerns around the transportation of nuclear waste between Scottish nuclear sites.

The issue of nuclear material transportation is also the focus of the final presentation by the Vice Chairs of the campaigning group 'Highland Against Nuclear Transport', John Boocock and Tor Justad. This group was established to raise local concerns around the transportation of radioactive materials from Dounreay to Sellafield across the remote Highland rail network. The group is also concerned around similar transports of waste by sea, particularly after the recent incident affecting the MS Parida, which was adrift for several hours off the north east coast of Scotland after a fire on board. The vessel was transporting radioactive materials from Dounreay to Belgium and the incident was serious enough to warrant the evacuation of an oil rig. The NFLA have written to the Scottish Government and the UK Government around their ongoing concerns with the transport of radioactive materials on 'roll on, roll off' ships. (2)

NFLA Scotland Convener Councillor Bill Butler said:

"I am looking forward to listening to some important presentations at the NFLA Scotland Forum seminar in Perth. I am sure the seminar will highlight the inherent issues and dangers with dealing with our extensive and burdensome radioactive legacy in Scotland. I am also pleased we will be focusing on the positive nature a nuclear free Scotland could bring in an increasing amount of clean, sustainable renewable energy and Council-led energy efficiency projects. These will undoubtedly be waste-free in comparison to nuclear power and can more quickly alleviate fuel poverty across Scotland. I urge councillors and local groups to attend this important and timely seminar."

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



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Ends

For more information please contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 0161 234 3244 or Pete Roche, NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor on 0131 444 1445.

Notes for editors:

- (1) NFLA Scotland Forum Autumn Seminar, Room 410, Perth City Chambers, 31st October
 - 12.30pm **Seminar Registration**
 - 12.45pm **Welcomes:** Councillor Ann Younger, Perth & Kinross Council and Councillor Bill Butler, NFLA Scotland Convenor
 - 12.50pm The post-Dounreay Economy in Caithness and North Sutherland – Eann Sinclair, Programme Manager, Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership
 - 1.15pm LA Energy Service Companies – can local authorities help play an important part in the alternative renewable energy revolution? Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary
 - 1.40pm NFLA concerns over radioactive contamination at Dounreay and Dalgety Bay; and over radioactive waste transfer at Hunterston and Torness – Pete Roche, NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor
 - 2.05pm Transportation of Dounreay's nuclear materials by rail or by sea to Sellafield – is it a safe solution for reducing the nuclear legacy in Scotland? Tor Justad and John Boocock, Vice Chairs of Highland against Nuclear Transport
 - 2.30 pm Panel discussion (for 3pm finish)

- (2) NFLA / KIMO Joint Media Release, 8th October 2014
http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/NFLA_KIMO_Parida_incident.pdf

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