



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

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Nuclear Free Local Authorities welcomes publication of Scottish policy on managing radioactive waste

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) welcomes today the publication of the Scottish Government's draft policy on the management of higher activity radioactive waste. (1).

The NFLA Scotland Forum has taken an active part in this policy-making process and participated in previous workshops. It plans to take an active part in the Government's workshop on the draft policy on the 29th January in Edinburgh. It will also provide a detailed response to the consultation.

The NFLA will reserve its judgement on the full policy until it has read the detail more closely. However, unlike in the separate discussion on radioactive waste management in England and Wales, the NFLA have been pleased that the policy-making consultation process has been more active, open and fair and provided opportunity to challenge the Scottish Government on a number of areas of concern.

There are some real issues of concern around 'disposal' and 'retrievability' where the NFLA will be seeking further clarification but the NFLA is pleased that deep underground 'disposal' of waste has been firmly discounted.

NFLA Chair, Bailie George Regan, comments:

"The Nuclear Free Local Authorities welcome this consultation. Unlike previous consultations on nuclear waste there is no pre-determined decision that it should be buried underground and we know exactly what quantities and types we have to deal with - there is no threat of new reactors producing new unknown quantities for an unknown length of time into the future. These are the ideal ingredients for a proper open and transparent exercise and we are pleased to see that the Scottish Government has seized this opportunity".

Ends

Further information

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Notes to Editors:

(1) The Scottish Government's 'Detailed Statement of Policy for Scotland's Higher Activity Radioactive Waste' is published today and can be accessed on the Scottish Government's website. The NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor Pete Roche will attend the Government's workshop on this policy on 29th January in Edinburgh. The NFLA will respond in full to the consultation, which continues until 9th April 2010.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES