



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA / WANA Joint Media release - for immediate release, 9th March 2010 Should Wales choose the nuclear option or go for renewables? Cross party pre-election panel considers nuclear new build and Wales

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities Welsh Forum have joined up with the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance in holding a special pre-election day seminar considering the implications for Wales and the South Wales of developing new nuclear reactors at Wylfa, Hinkley Point and Oldbury. All three reactors have been nominated as potential sites for a new generation of nuclear power stations by the UK Government (1). The seminar is being held in the Park Inn Cardiff City Centre on Saturday March 13th (2).

This joint NFLA / WANA seminar brings together high profile politicians from all 5 major parties in Wales to discuss whether nuclear power is the answer to Wales and the wider UK's energy needs and climate change mitigation, or if other alternatives should be pursued. With just weeks to a pivotal UK-wide general election, this seminar allows councillors and interest members of the public the opportunity to question politicians on which direction Wales and the south west should take.

The cross-party panel includes:

- Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport
- Simon Hoare, Conservative candidate for Cardiff South
- Jenny Randerson, Liberal Democrat AM for Cardiff Central
- Leanne Wood, Plaid Cymru AM for South Wales
- Jake Griffiths, Leader of the Welsh Greens.

Each politician will consider the implications for new nuclear build and there will be opportunity for a panel discussion allowing each parties views to be cross-examined.

The seminar will also cover some of the concerns which Welsh and south west groups have with an expansion of nuclear power in the area.

Confirmed speakers and issues being covered in the second half of the event include:

- Hugh Richards, WANA, on concerns that the radioactive waste created by new nuclear reactors will be more dangerously radioactive than present levels of waste;
- Richard Bramhall, Low Level Radiation Campaign, on concerns over low level radiation and cancer rates around nuclear reactors;
- Crispin Aubrey, Stop Hinkley Group, on local issues raised by the building of new nuclear reactors at Hinkley Point and Oldbury
- Carl Clowes, People Against Wylfa B, on local issues raised by the building of a new nuclear reactor at Wylfa in Anglesey.

NFLA Wales member and Cardiff Councillor Ed Bridges said:

“The NFLA Welsh Forum is delighted to join with WANA to bring this important event to Cardiff. I am keen to hear what each party representative has to say about whether Wales and the South West needs to take up the nuclear option. I also think it is important, with a general election coming up, to challenge all political parties to consider the energy and environmental needs of the country for the next 2 decades. Nuclear power has many unresolved issues to answer, and I think councillors and concerned people will know a lot more of the issues as a result of this seminar. I urge people to attend.”

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WANA joint co-ordinator, Tim Richards, adds:

"The government's plan to build nuclear power stations in order to produce energy with low CO2 emissions is like jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. Nuclear Power will not generate electricity until it is too late to help, will require huge subsidies from consumers to supply it and create a long-term legacy of radioactive dangers. No nuclear power station at any time in the last 50 years has been built to plan in either time or cost and the problems of storing highly dangerous radioactive waste have still not been solved. This seminar gives the public the opportunity to find out why this is the view of WANA and we encourage people to attend."

Ends

Further information

Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930186

Tim Richards, WANA

Notes to Editors:

(1) UK Government's Draft National Policy Statement on Nuclear Power Generation, November 2009.

(2) NFLA Wales, WANA seminar, Park Inn Cardiff Centre, Mary Ann St, Saturday 13th March 2010

FINAL PROGRAMME:

10.30am	Registration
11.00am	Welcome: Councillor Ed Bridges, Cardiff City Council, NFLA Wales member
11.05pm	Session A - Political perspectives on new nuclear build and energy policy Chaired by Councillor Ray Davies, Caerphilly CB Council, NFLA Wales member
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport (confirmed)• Leanne Wood, Plaid Cymru AM for South Wales Central (confirmed)• Simon Hoare, Conservative PPC for Cardiff South and Penarth (confirmed)• Jenny Randerson, Liberal Democrat AM for Cardiff Central (confirmed)• Jake Griffiths, Leader of Welsh Green Party (invited)
12.15pm	Panel Discussion
12.45pm	Lunch
1.15pm	Session B – Concerns of local campaigning groups on nuclear new build Chaired by Tim Richards, WANA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hugh Richards, WANA – concerns over high build radioactive fuel (conf)• Richard Bramhall, Low Level Radiation Campaign – concerns over low-level radiation from new build (confirmed)• Crispin Aubrey, Stop Hinkley – implications of new build at Hinkley Point and Oldbury (confirmed)• Carl Clowes, People Against Wylfa B – implications of new build at Wylfa
12.25pm	Refreshments
2.40pm	Panel discussion
3.00pm	Conclusion

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