



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

MEDIA ADVISORY – for immediate release, 19th October 2011

NFLA puts forward its views to Welsh Environment Minister, councillors and the public on Wylfa B and wider Welsh energy policy

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) has led a small delegation to meet with the Welsh Environment Minister John Griffiths and Government officials to discuss the potential development of a new nuclear reactor at Wylfa in Anglesey and the future development of Welsh energy policy (1). This follows on from the presentation of the NFLA's submission to the Welsh Assembly's energy inquiry which it made in its latest Welsh Forum meeting in Gwynedd County Council offices (2), and which it will reiterate at a major nuclear concerned groups public conference being held this Saturday at 'The Galeri', Caernarfon (3).

At a constructive meeting on the 17th October with the Environment Minister a small NGO delegation, led by the NFLA Welsh Forum Vice Chair Councillor Ray Davies (Caerphilly County Borough Council), made a number of points opposing the development of a proposed new nuclear reactor at Wylfa and discussed the wider benefits to Wales of developing a non-nuclear future energy policy.

The meeting allowed for a full and frank exchange of views. The NFLA accepts that the Welsh Government is not directly involved with the development of a new nuclear reactor at Wylfa, though in the meeting it urged the Government to effectively pursue its role to comment on UK energy legislation and make direct representations over concerns such as the 160 year on-site highly radioactive waste storage arising from a Wylfa B reactor, the wider issues around emergency planning, the development of large numbers of electricity pylons from such a development and to raise concerns over radioactive discharges into the marine environment from a new build programme (4).

The meeting also allowed for the NFLA and other groups to make additional points around the great potential in Wales to be a world leader in the development of wind energy, tidal and wave energy, hydroelectric power, district heating schemes and microgeneration. The NFLA welcomed the ambitious targets of the Welsh Government in this policy area and urged it to continue to develop that ambition and to also develop parallel policies to increase energy efficiency and tackle the scourge of fuel poverty in Wales. These points were also made by the NFLA Welsh Forum to councillors from across Wales at its recent 14th October meeting in Gwynedd County Council offices – the presentations from this meeting are on the NFLA website.

The NFLA Welsh Forum Chair, Councillor Stephen Churchman (Gwynedd County Council) is one of the keynote speakers in an important conference opposing the potential development of a new nuclear reactor in Wales and advocating an alternative renewable energy revolution. Other speakers at this event, which is organised by the groups 'People Against Wylfa B', Friends of the Earth Wales, Greenpeace and CND Wales; include the former NFLA All Ireland Forum Chair and Irish Senator Mark Dearey, Jill Evans MEP and speakers from the supporting groups to the event. The one day public conference takes place in 'The Galeri', Caernarfon Harbour, on Saturday 22nd October from 10am – 4.30pm.

NFLA Welsh Forum Chair, Councillor Stephen Churchman said:

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“The Nuclear Free Local Authorities are playing an important role in the debate over possible new nuclear build at Wylfa and the alternative non-nuclear energy policy that Wales should rather seek. I welcome that the Welsh Environment Minister John Griffiths and his officials are engaging directly with us on these issues and we will continue to work positively with the Welsh Government to pursue the expansion of renewable energy, microgeneration and energy efficiency in Wales. I encourage the public and councillors around North Wales to attend this Saturday’s major conference on Wylfa and Welsh energy policy and hear about the effective alternatives to new nuclear power in Wales.”

Ends

For interviews contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930196.

Notes for editors:

- (1) The meeting with John Griffiths AM took place in Welsh Government offices on Monday October 17th. It follows an agreed joint letter to the Minister requesting a meeting with nuclear concerned groups following a NFLA Welsh Forum strategy meeting on nuclear new build and Welsh energy strategy held in Cardiff City Hall in June. The representatives from the NGO community included Councillor Ray Davies, NFLA Secretary Sean Morris and independent energy consultant and former campaigner to Friends of the Earth Cymru Neil Crumpton. A photograph of the meeting is available on request.
- (2) The presentations from the NFLA Welsh Forum meeting held in the Arfon Area Office, Caernarfon, Gwynedd on October 14th can be found on the NFLA website – <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>.
- (3) ‘Wales – Green + Nuclear Free’ will be held in ‘The Galeri’, Saturday November 22nd from 10am – 4.30pm and is open to the public. For further details go to the website link: <http://stop-wlyfa.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/GaleriPoster.jpg>
- (4) The NFLA Welsh Forum Policy Briefing on future Welsh energy policy, and its submission to the Welsh Assembly’s energy inquiry, can be found on the NFLA website.

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