



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

For immediate release, 7th December 2009

Nuclear Free Local Authorities - continuing to campaign against nuclear new build concerns and nuclear weapons proliferation into 2010

Sellafield safety breach deeply concerning; rethink Trident replacement

The UK and Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) reaffirmed its key aims and objectives at its Annual General Meeting in Cardiff to oppose nuclear new build and encourage the positive moves towards nuclear weapons reduction in 2010.

Re-electing Bailie George Regan (Dundee City Council) as its UK and Ireland Chair, the NFLA noted continuing concerns over the safety, costs, transportation and waste management of any nuclear new build programme. The NFLA will be providing a full response to the Government's consultation on the national policy statements on new nuclear power generation and the justification of new nuclear power stations. It also has requested to speak at the Parliamentary Energy and Climate Change Committee in its deliberation of the Nuclear National Policy Statement in January.

Commenting on recent developments in nuclear policy, the NFLA:

- Noted its 'deep dismay' on the successful prosecution of Sellafield Ltd for major health and safety lapses at the reactor, leading to the radioactive contamination of sub-contractors.
- Agreed to liaise closely with groups concerned over the developments with new build and nuclear weapons proliferation.
- Agreed to a major event in Cardiff in late January 2010 with the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance to highlight deep concerns over nuclear new build at Wylfa, Hinkley Point and Oldbury in co-operation with Welsh local authorities.
- Agreed to contact the UK, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish and Republic of Ireland Governments over the alarming results of the German government KIKK study suggesting higher rates of childhood cancers around nuclear sites.
- Agreed to contact the Irish Government and Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland over a critical response to its report on radioactive doses around Irish Sea coastal communities.
- Opposes the development of an enriched uranium facility being proposed by the Aldermaston nuclear weapons facility and currently being considered by West Berkshire District Council.
- Agreed to support the 'Rethinking Trident' campaign and join with the politicians, military figures, faith leaders and other leading figures in suggesting that Trident replacement is an expensive folly in the middle of one of the worst recessions in UK and Irish economic history. Major NFLA seminars on Trident replacement are being planned in England and Scotland in February 2010.

Bailie Regan commented:

"The Nuclear Free Local Authorities remain one of the most important voices in the growing movement of organisations having deep concerns over new nuclear build in terms of cost, safety, waste and transportation. Local authorities have had to deal with the problems and the effects of nuclear power for decades now and I'm deeply concerned we are storing up major problems for not just our children, but our grandchildren and generations to come. At this crucial time we will seek to show to the Government that it needs to think very carefully before building new nuclear power stations or an expensive replacement to the Trident missile system. Councils need to get involved with us now to support the NFLA at this critical juncture in the nuclear debate."

Ends

Contact UK or National Chairs via the NFLA Secretariat – 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930196.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES