



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

For immediate release, 16th October 2009

Scotland and nuclear – which direction should it go?

Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) Scotland are holding a special seminar considering the major nuclear policy issues affecting the country on **Friday, 23rd October, in Glasgow Parish Halls, 226 George Street (opposite the City Chambers)**. Is nuclear energy a viable answer to Scotland's future energy needs, how should it respond to nuclear new build in England, is low level radiation around nuclear sites an issue and how does Scotland respond to an expansion of the Faslane nuclear weapons naval base? All these questions will be answered at the seminar.

This special seminar has been opened out to all councillors and relevant officers in Scotland to give a flavour for the important work of NFLA Scotland. It also reflects the most important issues around nuclear power and nuclear weapons proliferation as they affect Scotland.

The seminar will be addressed by an impressive collection of experts in the field:

- J W Storm van Leeuwen, an independent civil nuclear power consultant and a member of the ground-breaking Intergovernmental Panel Report on climate change,
- Dr Ian Fairlie, an internationally renowned specialist on low level radiation and public health,
- John Anslie, the Co-ordinator of CND Scotland,
- Pete Roche, the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Scotland Policy Advisor.

The seminar will look at four huge nuclear issues of real importance to Scotland:

J W Storm van Leeuwen will provide a forensic analysis of nuclear power and whether it can be a viable answer to reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Ian Fairlie will report the findings of a report by the German government on cancer rates situated 5kms around nuclear sites. The report highlights worrying trends in childhood leukaemia rates. He will emphasise the necessity for a similar study in Scotland and the wider UK.

John Ainslie will note the expected large-scale expansion of the Faslane naval base hosting the UK's nuclear deterrent, Trident. He will ask the question of how Scotland should react to such an expansion to become the sole base hosting the UK's nuclear fleet.

Finally, Pete Roche will provide an analysis of new nuclear build south of the border in England and Wales. How should Scotland react to it, both in suggesting a public inquiry on new nuclear build, and considering the issues for it in new reactors within 30 miles of its border in Cumbria and Durham.

The NFLA Scotland Convenor, Councillor Euan McLeod, Glasgow City Council, will be chairing the seminar. He said:

"This seminar gives councillors in Scotland a valuable opportunity to find out more about the nuclear issue and how it affects Scotland. I think Storm van Leeuwen's and Ian Fairlie's presentation will provide an analysis of nuclear power and nuclear health and safety unlikely to be provided with any greater quality than by any other Forum. Scotland also needs to decide how it should respond to the possibility of major upgrades in the Trident system and what it really means by centring it at Faslane. Scotland has chosen not to develop new reactors, but should it also remain a key part of the debate in the rest of the UK? I urge councillors to come to Glasgow and find out more."

Ends

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



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The seminar takes place at 1pm on Friday 23rd October in Glasgow and is open to all councillors and relevant officers – for further information email cathy.birrell@glasgow.gov.uk / ring 0141 287 7872.

Notes for Editors:

The flyer for the NFLA English NFLA Wales joint seminar is attached below.

For interviews with speakers or NFLA representatives contact the NFLA Secretary, Sean Morris, on 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930196. Councillor Euan McLeod can be contacted on 07723 341787.

NFLA Scotland Seminar

Date: 1pm – 3pm, Friday 23rd October 2009

Location: Parish Halls, 22 George Street, Glasgow (opposite City Chambers)

What are the key nuclear issues for ‘nuclear free’ Scotland?

PROGRAMME

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| 12.45pm | Registration: Tea/Coffee |
| 1.00pm | Welcome: Councillor Euan McLeod, NFLA Scotland Convenor |
| 1.05pm | Jan Willem Storm van Leeuwen, independent civil nuclear power consultant – is Scotland right not to develop nuclear power? Why nuclear power remains the ‘glossy pretender’. |
| 1.35pm | Pete Roche, NFLA Scotland Policy Adviser - new nuclear build in England and Wales: how should Scotland react? |
| 2.00pm | Dr Ian Fairlie, independent consultant on radioactivity in the environment – should we be worried about low level radiation in Scotland? The findings of the German KiKK report |
| 2.25pm | John Ainslie, Scottish CND Chair – development of the Faslane nuclear submarine base and what it means for Scotland |
| 2.45pm | Panel Discussion |
| 3.00pm | Conclusion |

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