



NFLA Secretariat
c/o Room 6005
Town Hall Manchester
M60 3NY
office@nuclearpolicy.info

NFLA website:
<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
Mayors for Peace website:
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>



Last year's NPT Preparatory Conference held at the United Nations

Tel: 0161 234 3244
Fax: 0161 274 7397

NFLA Chair:
Baillie George Regan

NFLA Secretary:
Sean Morris

Admin staff: Andrea Lindezey
and Gemma Harris

NFLA England Chair:
Councillor Ralph Pryke

NFLA Ireland Chair:
Councillor Michael Carr

NFLA Ireland Liaison Officer:
Steven Cooper

NFLA Scotland Convenor:
Councillor Euan McLeod

NFLA Scotland Secretary:
Cathy Birrell

NFLA Wales Chair:
Councillor David Sage

Nuclear weapons – real progress?

With the Nuclear Non Proliferation (NPT) Treaty Conference taking place at the UN in May, a number of positive initiatives have taken place suggesting possible real progress in New York.

President Obama and President Medvedev signed an important nuclear weapons

reduction treaty in Prague agreeing to substantial cuts in their arsenals.

This was followed by an international conference in Washington at which 46 states agreed to redouble efforts to improve controls on nuclear materials, such as plutonium. Nuclear terrorism was noted as

a real concern across the world.

The NFLA Chair and NFLA Secretary will be part of a large Mayors for Peace delegation seeking to build on this work at the NPT Conference. A peace rally, major seminar and lobbying are all planned – further details in May's newsletter.

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The NFLA Secretariat has produced a detailed Policy Briefing for NFLA members on the EU Commission's consultation on developing an EU strategy on radioactive waste.

The consultation provides a brief online questionnaire to assist development of a policy proposal later in

the year.

The NFLA have also contacted the Scottish Government to inquire what implications this has for its draft radioactive waste policy.

The NFLA's detailed response of the Scottish policy, noting concern over 'near site, near disposal' of

upto 100 metres underground can be downloaded from the NFLA website.

The EU Commission consultation lasts until 30th May and NFLA members are encouraged to use the NFLA briefing to submit their own views.

25th anniversary Low Level Radiation and Health Conference, Friends Meeting House, Manchester, 19th and 20th June

Speakers include:
Prof Wolfgang Weiss gives the Alice Stewart Lecture on the German KIKK report on childhood cancers around nuclear reactors.

Radiation risks – Carmel Motherskill, McMaster Uni, Canada

Alfred Koerblein, Env'I Institute, Munich

Eric Wright, Dundee University

Richard Wakeford, Manchester University

Workshops – John Urquhart, Open University on very low level radiation

Tracey Morris, St Andrew's University on nuclear test veterans

Managing radioactive waste –

Rachel Western on the geological waste repository

Peter Diehl, WISE on UK Uranium Supplies

Email:
Janine@core.furness.co.uk to register.
Phone Jill Sutcliffe on 01403 700395 for further details.

KIMO / NFLA joint paper to OSPAR Commission

The NFLA Secretary was to join with the KIMO Secretary to discuss a joint paper on radioactive discharges into the marine environment at the OSPAR Commission's Radioactive Substances Committee, which was due to be held in Sweden in mid April.

Unfortunately, closure of airspace in Europe due to the Icelandic volcano meant the meeting had to be postponed.

The NFLA / KIMO joint paper raises real concerns over the potential increases in radioactive discharges into the Irish Sea from

Sellafield over the next decade, and the potential impact of a UK nuclear new build programme on this.

The paper will be discussed at the rescheduled OSPAR meeting and will be tabled at the June 25th NFLA meeting.

NFLA Scotland hosts seminar on radioactive waste policy

NFLA Scotland will be holding a timely and important seminar on Scottish radioactive waste policy in mid June.

After the recent consultation there was growing concern on the depth and potential irretrievability of Scotland's radioactive

waste.

The NFLA have invited the Environment Minister for Scotland, Richard Lochhead to provide his views moving on from the consultation.

Confirmed seminar speakers include Prof Brian Clark of CoRWM,

Ian Fairlie, consultant to SCCORS, and Pete Roche, NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor.

The seminar will be on 18th June in West Lothian Council Civic Centre – further details can be found on the NFLA website.

NFLA Wales hosts seminar on new nuclear build at Wylfa

The NFLA Wales Forum is holding its summer seminar in Gwynedd to consider whether Wales needs to build a new nuclear power station at Wylfa in Anglesey.

Confirmed speakers include Gerry Wolff, co-author of the 'Nuclear Costs' report, Carl Clowes of PAWB, NFLA Secretary Sean Morris and Neil Crumpton of

Friends of the Earth Cymru.

The seminar will be on 4th June in Caernarfon – further details can be found on the NFLA website.



Mayor Tomihisa Taue of Nagasaki (seated) at NPT 2009 Conference

Letters to the press in April:

All are on the NFLA website.

- Nuclear power a bad bet for Ireland
- Nuclear war or nuclear terrorism – how do we try to stop both?
- Obama's nuclear weapons policy continues momentum
- Nuclear waste needs real answers not new build

Nagasaki Mayor visiting Manchester for NFLA 30th anniversary

The Mayor of Nagasaki and the Chair of Nagasaki City Council (an H-bomb survivor) have confirmed that they will be the guests of honour at the NFLA's 30th anniversary events in Manchester in November.

Discussions are taking

place with the People's History Museum in Manchester to host a photographic exhibition of images from the Hiroshima – Nagasaki bombs on 1945.

The Mayor, who is a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, will also officially help

launch the Manchester City Centre Peace and Justice Trail.

The events will take place on November 4th – 6th and further details will be included in the next NFLA newsletter.

NFLA Policy Briefings – emergency planning, waste, radiation

After four well attended and informative NFLA national Forum seminars held in February and March, the NFLA Secretariat is developing a number of Policy Briefings.

A briefing on nuclear weapons convoys and nuclear emergency planning is being

developed after the NFLA Scotland and NFLA England seminars on these subjects.

An overview of new nuclear build in England and Wales is also being developed after the NFLA Wales seminar.

And a briefing on low level radiation and its

effects on the Irish Sea coastline is also being developed.

Presentations from the seminars are posted on the NFLA website and the briefings will be sent to NFLA members shortly. A seminar on emergency planning in England is being devised for late June.

Forthcoming meetings

NFLA Welsh Forum – Celtic Park Hotel, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, 4th June.

NFLA Scotland – Howden Park Centre and Civic Centre, Livingston, West Lothian, 18th June.

NFLA Steering Committee meeting – Manchester, 25th June

NFLA English Forum – Manchester, 25th June (tbc)

NFLA All-Ireland Forum - September

Low Level Radiation & Health Conference (in association with NFLA) – Friends Meeting House, Manchester, 19th and 20th June (SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE DETAILS).