



News from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities

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KEY WEBSITE LINKS:
<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>
<http://www.kimointernational.org>



The Fukushima accident, March 2011

Weightman nuclear safety review

The Chief UK HSE Nuclear Inspector Mike Weightman published his interim report on nuclear safety on the 18th May.

The report was requested by the Government following the Fukushima disaster. It contains 11 conclusions and 25 recommendations.

The conclusions largely suggest the nuclear industry has all the key safety issues in hand and the Fukushima incident is unlikely to be replicated in the UK.

The recommendations though suggest a large number of issues around emergency response, flooding, plant and site safety require a full

review. In its press release the NFLA also pointed out areas not looked at in the review – such as discharge levels, evacuation zones and malicious incidents.

A media release of the NFLA's concerns is on its website. NFLA staff will attend a July meeting with HSE staff to discuss the review.

Westminster seminar – independent analysis of Fukushima

The NFLA is co-sponsoring a seminar in the Houses of Parliament to provide an independent analysis of the Fukushima incident and a response to the Weightman report.

The 14 June NCG seminar is chaired by Sir Jonathan Porritt, the former chair of the Sustainable Developm't

Commission.

Speakers include the nuclear engineer John Large, the nuclear finance expert Steve Thomas, key energy advisers Tom Burke and Andrew Warren and NCG co-ordinator Paul Dorfman.

The event has been sponsored by a cross-party panel of concerned MPs and all

Westminster MPs have been contacted to attend. NFLA members are encouraged to attend.

A follow-up seminar in September & regional seminars in Bristol, Lancaster, Norwich and London are also being planned for local and regional groups and the general public.

NFLA media releases

May 2011:

(On NFLA website.)

- NFLA response to Weightman nuclear safety review
- Independent analysis of COMARE report
- NFLA welcomes Wexford Borough Council into the fold
- NFLA raises joint complaint on BBC Radio 4 Chernobyl documentary



**NUCLEAR WEAPONS
ABOLITION DAY
21st June 2011**

Screenings of the film 'Countdown to Zero' are taking place at cinemas around the UK and Ireland.

The film is by the same company that developed the Oscar winning climate change film 'An Inconvenient Truth'. The NFLA are involved in a number of panel discussions following the screenings.

Go to:
www.countdowntozerofilm.com
for details of local screenings and associated events taking place on the 21st June around the British Isles.

Huhne responds to NFLA / NGO joint letter

The UK Energy Minister Chris Huhne has responded in detail to the joint letter of 'minimum demands' co-ordinated by the NFLA and supported by over 35 nuclear concerned groups.

The joint letter summarised 8 key issues of concern

following the Fukushima disaster. The letter was discussed in full at the recent meeting with DECC staff and Lord Marland.

Chris Huhne's response welcomes the letter and outlines that the UK Government is still committed to new nuclear build. A number

of reviews and reports around safety, health and waste are outlined in some detail.

A response to this letter is being drafted for wide endorsement. Both the Huhne letter and the response will be placed on the NFLA website, where the original letter can also be found.

NFLA provide critique of COMARE low level radiation report

The NFLA have submitted a detailed critique to the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) of its recently published report around childhood cancers and proximity to nuclear power plants.

The COMARE report involved an analysis of

UK nuclear reactors (though not all of them) and cancer rates around them – it found no increase rate of leukaemia near nuclear plants.

Dr Ian Fairlie has provide the NFLA with a detailed critique of the report, suggesting COMARE has 'cherry

picked' some of its results and omitted some key data. The Policy Briefing and press release are on the NFLA website.

COMARE will consider the NFLA report at its summer meeting. The NFLA report has also been sent to DECC and the Health Minister.

Wexford Borough Council joins the NFLA

At its May full Council meeting, the Irish east coast Wexford Borough Council decided to join the NFLA.

The resolution noted its concern over nuclear

new build in the UK, discharge levels in the Irish Sea and nuclear risks following the Fukushima disaster.

In the 1970s a site in County Wexford was

identified for a nuclear reactor, but rejected after a big public campaign. Wexford will host the next NFLA All Ireland Forum meeting and are a welcome new member to the Forum.

NFLA letters to the media

May 2011:
(All emailed to NFLA members.)

- Green Investment Bank should be foremost for renewable energy
- Moving away from nuclear new build.
- IPCC figures of CCC figures – who's right?
- Fukushima boosts the case for reducing nuclear power
- Nuclear poll actually suggests opposition to new build
- Immobilise plutonium, don't reprocess it!
- Energy security – renewables are the answer

OTHER NEWS: **Joint complaint to the BBC over Chernobyl documentary**

The NFLA helped to co-ordinate a joint letter with Medact, Scientists for Global Responsibility, NCG, CND and Chernobyl charities over a lack of balance in a Radio 4 documentary on the Chernobyl disaster. A critique of the documentary can be found on the NFLA website. The Controller of BBC Radio 4 is currently considering the content of the complaint.

Joint Mayors for Peace / NFLA Trident seminar and meeting

The UK Mayors for Peace Working Group and the NFLA English Forum are organising a joint seminar in Oxford on the 8th July to consider Trident replacement decisions.

The Mayor of Oxford will host a business meeting of the UK Mayors for Peace to

discuss development of the group and future events.

The following seminar will include speakers from BASIC, Nuclear Information Services and Mayors for Peace who will consider the work of the Trident Commission, the Anglo-French Defence Treaty

and wider international developments.

In mid May Defence Minister announced the 'Initial Gate' decision to develop the design of new Trident submarines and missiles, but also a report on alternatives. Mayors for Peace and NFLA members are encouraged to attend it.

NFLA Welsh and Scottish Forum meetings

The NFLA Welsh Forum will be holding a strategy meeting with councillors, officers and nuclear groups around Wales, Hinkley and Oldbury in Cardiff City Hall on the 3rd June.

Development of a Welsh Assembly seminar, a non-nuclear Welsh energy policy and joint

support between Welsh and local new build site concerned groups are the key aims of the meeting.

Meanwhile, the NFLA Scotland Forum will be holding a business meeting in Glasgow City Chambers on the 1st July. The meeting will be considering nuclear

and wider energy developments in Scotland and the implications of the dramatic Scottish Parliament elections and its impact on the 2012 Scottish council elections.

Scottish and Welsh members should seek to attend.

Forthcoming NFLA meetings

NFLA Welsh Forum, 3rd June, Cardiff City Hall.

NCG / NFLA English Forum / No Need for Nuclear seminar, 14th June, London, (Hse of Parliament).

NFLA Steering Committee, 24th June, Manchester Town Hall.

NFLA Scotland Forum, 1st July, City Chambers, Glasgow.

NFLA English Forum / UK Mayors for Peace meeting, 8th July, Oxford Town Hall.

NFLA All Ireland Forum, September, Wexford (date tbc).