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NFLA / NGO dialogue on new build

The NFLA Steering Committee met with representatives from over 20 nuclear and environmental pressure groups to discuss a common strategy in critiquing the upcoming likely positive national policy announcements on new nuclear build.

This important dialogue held four workshops.

They were facilitated by NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor Pete Roche - considering alternatives to nuclear power; Peter Burt from Nuclear Information Services - the economics of nuclear new build; former CoRWM member Andy Blowers - the radioactive waste issue; and Jean McSorley from Greenpeace - the safety

case for new nuclear build.

The dialogue was a very useful and effective networking event and it was agreed to develop a Steering Group to take all the issues from the day forward. The report will go on the NFLA website.

NFLA Steering Committee approves consultation responses

The NFLA Secretary recently submitted responses on behalf of the NFLA Steering Committee to a number of important consultations. These include a consultation on the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on UK radioactive discharge policy under the Environment Permitting Programme.

The NFLA have provided detailed submissions to the Low Level Radioactive Waste Strategy of the NDA and to CoRWM's draft report on the research and development in radioactive waste management.

And a response was sent to the Department of Energy and Climate

Change (DECC) urging an open and transparent sector wide independent nuclear safety regulator.

All consultation responses are tabled on the NFLA website – <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info> or contact the NFLA Secretariat via office@nuclearpolicy.info.



Commemorative plaque declaring Manchester the 'World's first nuclear free city'

NFLA October events:
NFLA England / Wales joint meeting, Liverpool, 9th October

– *Major Infrastructure Planning, do Councils have any role to question the new nuclear build process?*

- *Hugh Ellis, Town and Country Planning Association*
- *Pete Wilkinson, Nuclear Waste Advisory Assoc's*
- *David Hunt, Eco Environments Ltd*
- *Pete Roche, NFLA Policy Advisor*

NFLA Ireland mt'g, Bray, 16th October

- *The key nuclear issues for Ireland – UK new build and radiation safety.*

- *Brian Hurley, Airtricity (tbc)*
- *Pete Roche, NFLA Policy Advisor*
- *Tim Deere-Jones, marine pollution consultant*
- *Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary*



Hunterston B Nuclear Power Station © robedwards.com

NFLA at 30 – the preparations begin

Next year will see the 30th anniversary of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities, which was founded on 5th November 1980 after a formal resolution by Manchester City Council.

The NFLA Steering Committee agreed that

events should be considered to celebrate the 'NFLA at 30' that would highlight its importance to the nuclear debate for 3 decades and highlight issues around the current debates over nuclear new build and nuclear weapons proliferation.

Proposed events include a combination of lectures, exhibitions, seminars & workshops, 'Question Time' events and an Annual Policy Briefing looking at how the NFLA will work in its fourth decade. The December newsletter will provide further details.

Trident replacement – NFLA publishes policy paper

A detailed overview of the issues relating to the UK government's proposed replacement and upgrade of its Trident nuclear weapons programme has been produced by the NFLA Secretariat and sent to all members.

The paper highlights the

financial costs of the Trident programme and how difficult it may be to fund it over the next decade in the midst of a major financial recession. It also highlights the potential inconsistency in the developing of a replacement system while working on a nuclear weapons free

world through the 2010 Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Conference.

It urges membership of Mayors for Peace and notes attempts to meet with UK and Irish Foreign Ministers to put forward the concerns of the NFLA. The report is on the NFLA website.

Hunterston leak – why no prosecution?

The recent important uncovering of an accidental leak of 2,600 litres of radioactive waste into the Firth of Clyde from the Hunterston nuclear

power station (Herald, 20/9/09), resulted in the site operator receiving a 'final warning', rather than prosecution, from SEPA. NFLA Scotland is writing to SEPA querying the

lack of prosecution while letters have been sent to the media, comparing it to a similar leak at Sizewell. NFLA asks what does it take to prosecute sites when major leaks occur?

NFLA October events NFLA Scotland mtg, Glasgow, 23rd Oct'r

- *The key nuclear issues for Scotland*

- *JW Storm van Leeuwen, independent nuclear policy consultant*
- *Ian Fairlie, independent radiation policy consultant*
- *John Ainslie, Scottish CND Chair*
- *Pete Roche, NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor*

Letters to the press in September:

http://nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/media_letters_sep09.pdf

- NFLA welcomes Brown's statement on disarmament – sent to various papers
- Irish Government can assist Obama's vision – sent to Irish Times
- Concerns over leak at Hunterston; Scotland should promote renewables as the way forward – sent to various Scottish papers
- NFLA urge support of Obama and Brown in weapons cuts – sent to the Guardian
- Trident should be cut further – sent to the Financial Times

October sees major NFLA national Forum seminars

October will be a very busy month for the four NFLA national Forums.

On the 9th October in Liverpool, NFLA England and NFLA Wales are holding a joint seminar on the major changes to planning laws in the 2 nations. Hugh Ellis, Chief Planner of the

Town and Country Planning Association is the keynote speaker.

On the 16th October in Bray, NFLA Ireland is holding a seminar considering concerns over radioactive discharges and UK new nuclear build.

And on the 23rd October in Glasgow, NFLA Scotland is holding a seminar on the key nuclear issues in the nation. JW Storm van Leeuwen and Ian Fairlie are amongst the speakers.

Flyers can be found on the NFLA website – sign up now!

NFLA AGM 2009

The NFLA AGM will be held on 3rd and 4th December 2009. The Steering Committee agreed that it should be held in Wales and negotiations are ongoing for a suitable location.

The AGM will determine NFLA Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2010 and

agree to an updated service plan and work programme for an important year in the nuclear policy debate.

A seminar is also being arranged on the issue of nuclear safety, nuclear emergency planning and radioactive exposure limits. Further details on the AGM will

be sent to all NFLA member authorities shortly.

It is important for all NFLA members to seek to attend the AGM to determine its leadership and future strategy. The AGM will also endorse 'NFLA at 30' commemorations.

Forthcoming meetings

NFLA Wales / NFLA England seminar - **Friday 9th October, Liverpool Town Hall.**

NFLA Ireland seminar - **Friday 16th October, Bray Town Hall.**

NFLA Scotland seminar - **Friday 23rd October Glasgow City Chambers.**

NDA Stakeholder Dialogue - **17th and 18th November, Manchester.**

Scottish Governm't radioactive waste dialogue - **24th Nov, Edinburgh.**

NFLA UK / Ireland AGM, SC and seminar - **3rd / 4th Dec 2009, Wales.**