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Nuclear new build – 10 sites on list

Sellafield – one of the 10 proposed sites for new nuclear reactors.

On 9th November the Energy Minister Ed Miliband announced a series of National Policy Statements (NPS) on energy projects, including nuclear power.

The Nuclear NPS argues that 10 new nuclear reactors are required at the following locations – Sellafield, Braystones and Kirksanton in

Cumbria, Heysham in Lancashire, Hartlepool in Durham, Wylfa in Anglesey, Sizewell and Bradwell in East Anglia, Oldbury in Gloucs and Hinkley Point in Somerset.

Dungeness was not included due to concerns over flooding and coastal erosion. 3 sites – Druridge Bay,

Kingsnorth and Owston Ferry – were considered but discounted for now.

The NFLA will develop a Policy Briefing on the NPS shortly and respond to the consultation, which closes on 22nd February.

The NPS is downloadable from: <http://www.decc.gov.uk>

Government says nuclear new build is 'justified'

On the same day as the Government announced the 10 proposed new nuclear sites, it also laid out its draft decision on the 'Justification' of new nuclear power stations.

By European law, any new practice has to be justified in terms of the balance between the economic benefits over social & environmental

concerns.

The Government claim the proposed new nuclear power stations can be justified and have produced a detailed draft decision, which can be downloaded from the DECC website.

The NFLA will be responding to the document mentioning

issues around safety, waste management, costs, transportation and concerns over terrorism.

The HSE has recently noted a number of safety concerns over the design of the 2 new reactors, emphasising the important need for responding to the consultation.



Tim Deere-Jones speaking at NFLA Ireland meeting

**NFLA press releases, November 2009:
All are on the NFLA website.**

- 9th November – NFLA UK have deep concerns over nuclear new build decision
- 10th November – NFLA Ireland oppose nuclear new build in UK and urge Irish Government to lobby UK ministers
- 23rd November – NFLA urge UK nuclear new build consultation extension to take account of childhood cancer report
- 24th November – letter to LGA First magazine on childhood cancer report

NFLA briefings on planning, cancer rates and radiation doses

NFLA national Forums held a number of important seminars in October which have now been converted into NFLA Policy Briefings for member authorities.

NFLA Briefing 69 provides Irish and all coastal authorities with

an important critique of research on radioactive does from the Irish Sea.

NFLA Briefing 70 provides English and Welsh Councils with an overview of the Infrastructure Planning Commission and major changes to planning law.

NFLA Briefing 71 provides Scottish Councils (and further afield) with the findings of a German study in childhood cancer rates near nuclear sites.

All briefings are on the NFLA website and letters have gone to Irish, UK and Scottish ministers on them.

NFLA Cardiff meetings to determine 2010 strategy

The NFLA will be holding a Steering Committee and its Annual General Meeting in Cardiff City Hall on the 3rd and 4th December.

The AGM will elect the NFLA Chair and National Vice Chairs, agree membership rates for 2010 and discuss next

year's Service Plan.

It is imperative for NFLA member authorities to seek to be present at these meetings, which help to determine its forward planning for next year.

The Steering Committee will be discussing the nuclear new build

consultations, waste management policy and the NFLA's 30th birthday anniversary events.

The NFLA Secretariat would like to thank Councillor Ed Bridges and Cardiff City Council for hosting the meetings.

Trident seminars planned for the new year

2010 will be an important year in the debate over the UK's nuclear deterrent, Trident.

NFLA Scotland have agreed to concentrate

on the weapons debate given Scottish government policy on no nuclear new build. A major seminar on Trident is planned in Fife in February 2010 considering UK

government policy and Scottish reactions.

It is also hoped to look at Aldermaston and English issues at a NFLA England seminar in Oxford in early March.



Scottish Parliament debating chamber

**Letters to the press in October:
All are on the NFLA website.**

Why should EDF fund a bypass – East Anglia Daily Times

New nuclear consultation can't go ahead with unsafe reactor designs – The Guardian

Is nuclear really affordable as EDF suggest? – The Guardian

Necessity of renewables – Dundee Courier

Trident replacement – look at the environmental issues – The Herald

Nuclear weapons, Scotland is right to oppose Trident – The Scotsman

Irish Government has to oppose UK new build – Irish Examiner

The costs of nuclear don't add up – The Guardian

Nuclear free councillors back the bishops on new build – Irish Times

New nuclear is a worry to Ireland – Irish Times / Belfast Telegraph

Why is Dungeness discounted but Sizewell kept on the list? – The Guardian

New nuclear build – an expensive red herring? – Daily Telegraph

Are we should new build could keep the lights on – Financial Times

Mayors for Peace involved in Scottish Parliament NATO event

The NFLA Secretary, in his role as UK Mayors for Peace Working Group Secretary, gave a very well received presentation to a special event held at the Scottish Parliament on 'NATO and nuclear weapons'.

The seminar was chaired by Bill Kidd MSP

and organised by Scotland for Peace, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Disarmament (PNND), Scotland CND and Mayors for Peace.

The seminar coincided with a NATO summit in Edinburgh considering its policy around nuclear weapons in Europe. The newly elected German

government has said it wants to remove such weapons from its land.

There was agreement to work in co-operation at next year's NPT and to lobby the European delegates present.

Mayors for Peace UK membership has grown to 60 towns and cities.

High Level Waste shipments commence early 2010

The owners of the Sellafield site in Cumbria have announced that shipments of high level vitrified radioactive waste to Japan will commence again in early 2010.

According to a CORE press release, the owners have said the

shipments will not be armed and be one of the three existing ageing ships.

Around 1000 HLW steel canisters will be shipped to Japan over the next 10 years. Each canister weights around 5000kg. Shipments to France and the Netherlands are also planned.

The NFLA Ireland Forum considered this issue at its March 2009 seminar – a Policy Briefing can be found on the NFLA website. Follow up letters on emergency planning concerns have been sent to the Irish and UK governments.

Forthcoming meetings

NFLA SC and AGM – 2 – 4pm, Thurs 3rd December, Rm 100, City Hall, Cardiff and 10am – 2pm, Friday 4th December, Council Chamber, City Hall, Cardiff.

NFLA SC 2010 Meetings – 29th January, 26th March, 24th June and 4th / 5th November in Manchester Town Hall (all to be confirmed at AGM)

2010 NFLA National Forum business meetings and seminars will be diaried and agreed at the AGM in December.