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### Contents

NFLA Policy Briefing	1
NDA Dialogue	2
Leaks at Nuclear Sites	2
NFLA Steering Committee	2
NFLA Press Releases	2
Stakeholder engagement	3
Forum news	3
Published letters	3
Forthcoming meetings	3

## New Vision – NFLA Policy Briefing 09

A highly informative NFLA Annual Policy Briefing was held in Manchester Town Hall on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Briefing was looking at two of the key issues affecting the planet in the next 10 years – how to tackle the effects of climate change and how to challenge the development in increased nuclear proliferation around the world.

Keynote speakers were Mayor Luc Deheane from the City of Ypres and the civil nuclear policy consultant JW Storm van Leeuwen.

Mayor Dehaene gave a powerful speech on the importance of towns and cities joining the **Mayors for Peace '2020 Vision'** to encourage nuclear weapon states to eliminate nuclear weapons by

the year 2020.

JW Storm van Leeuwen provided a timely and logical overview of why **nuclear power is not the low carbon option** for tackling climate change.

All presentations from the Policy Briefing will be available on the NFLA website shortly.



Mayor Luc Deheane and Lord Mayor of Manchester present gifts to Marie and John Risby. in commemoration of Bill Risby

## NFLA Annual Policy Briefing – leading the way on tackling climate change and nuclear proliferation

The NFLA Annual Policy Briefing also heard from 3 Councils leading the way in tackling the climate change challenge.

Councillor Richard Cowell gave a thorough overview of **Manchester's 'Call to Action'** on climate change and a number of very innovative projects with business

and the community.

Paul Muldoon from AirEn gave a presentation on **Dundalk 2020** - creating a sustainable energy zone in Louth and Newry and Mourne. And Fraser Thomson showed the many innovative ways **Fife Council** is **'crunching its carbon'**.

Concerns over nuclear proliferation and the **Trident** system were addressed by Mayors for Peace Development Adviser Peter Burt. **Iran and North Korea's** desire for nuclear weapons was discussed by Carol Naughton and Nick Ritchie considered concerns over **nuclear terrorism**.

**NFLA Recent Press Releases:**

**NFLA Annual Policy Briefing:**

[http://www.nuclearpoli cy.info/news/press\\_re lease\\_APB.pdf](http://www.nuclearpoli cy.info/news/press_re lease_APB.pdf)

**Mayor of Ypres speaks on the 2020 Vision**

[http://www.nuclearpoli cy.info/news/press\\_re lease\\_MayorsforPeace0 80609.pdf](http://www.nuclearpoli cy.info/news/press_re lease_MayorsforPeace0 80609.pdf)

**Are you registered for the NFLA supported 'N-Base' briefing?**

Shetland Island Council and NFLA Scotland support a briefing on nuclear issues called 'N-base Briefing'. If you would like to sign up to this free electronic briefing please email: [office@n-base.org.uk](mailto:office@n-base.org.uk)

**STOP PRESS! Leeds International Peace Lecture 2009**

Bruce Kent, Vice Chair of CND and MAW— "*The Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons*" Leeds Civic Hall, Thu 16 July, 7pm, all welcome.

**Bill Risby Memorial**

Members of Bill Risby's family were presented with the original Manchester Council resolution setting up the NFLA at the Annual Policy Briefing Dinner (see photo). A more permanent memorial is being considered for erection in Manchester Town Hall.

**NDA Stakeholder Dialogue – the future of nuclear waste**

The NFLA Secretary and Steering Committee member, Councillor Rick Nickerson (Shetland) represented the organisation at the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's (NDA) stakeholder dialogue.

The dialogue is held every 6 months and involves an update on NDA decommissioning and radioactive waste

management work.

Specific workshops were held on plutonium management, the national underground waste repository, the NDA's strategy management system and its overall waste management strategy.

The NDA announced at the event that a new Chief Executive had

been appointed – Tony Fountain from BP.

The NFLA challenged the NDA in a number of areas – the lack of NGOs at the meeting, the selling of land for new nuclear build, the possible incineration of low level radioactive waste and concerns over the recession and decommissioning. The next dialogue is in Manchester in Nov '09.

**Major Leakages at Sizewell and Sellafield**

NFLA's real concerns over new nuclear build and nuclear safety were recently amplified over the uncovering of major incidents at the Sellafield and Sizewell nuclear sites – two key nominations for new build sites.

The Sizewell leak was uncovered by Channel 4 News and relates to a 2007 incident where the site came within hours

of a 40,000 gallon leak of radioactive water into the North Sea. Significant water contamination did take place and the NFLA are following up why no prosecution of Magnox South has yet taken place. The East Anglian Daily Times published NFLA concerns over the issue.

Meanwhile, at Sellafield evidence of a 50 year radioactive leak, which

has just been 'plugged' at the original Windscale site, has just emerged.

It has also emerged in a FOI request from 'The Observer' that there have been **1,767 leaks, breakdowns or other events between 2001 – 2008 at UK nuclear sites**, according to the HSE. NFLA are following up this report with the HSE.

**NFLA Steering Committee hears from nuclear test veterans**

The NFLA Steering Committee met in Manchester on the 11<sup>th</sup> June in front of cameras from Japanese state TV (see May newsletter).

The Committee approved a number of responses to important

consultations on new nuclear build and radioactive waste.

A passionate address from John Lowe, Chair of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association, highlighted the recent court victory

over the MOD in their campaign for financial compensation and justice.

The Committee also agreed to send representatives to the Mayors for Peace Conference in Nagasaki.



NFLA Steering Committee in Manchester being filmed by Japanese NHK TV

### Letters to the press

Recently published NFLA articles include:

Possible closure of Thorp plant at Sellafield

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/may/21/letter-nuclear-power>

The economic costs of new build:

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/Nuclear-gamble.5371688.jp>

Freedom of information and nuclear weapon convoys:

<http://www.robedwards.com/2009/06/silly-secrecy-over-nuclear-bomb-convoys.html>

Scotland leads the renewable energy vision:

<http://www.scotsman.com/opinion/Wind-farm--will-never.5354895.jp>

Sizewell leak and new nuclear build (E Anglia Daily Times):

[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/news/sizewell\\_leak](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/news/sizewell_leak)



NFLA Chair, Councillor George Regan meets BNTVA Chair, John Lowe

## Stakeholder dialogues – the key role of the NFLA

A key role of the NFLA is to represent its members at official stakeholder dialogues with Government and the nuclear industry. At these NFLA can directly affect and influence official thinking and provide a basis for its response to important consultations.

The NFLA Secretariat is presently involved in the following dialogues:

- The Government's dialogue on dealing with the UK plutonium legacy
- The NDA Stakeholder dialogue noted above
- Scottish Government dialogue on high level radioactive waste management
- MOD 'Isolus' dialogue on nuclear submarine decommissioning
- HSE dialogue with NGOs on new nuclear build design
- Government dialogue on the Radiation Exemptions Regime
- CORWM plenary meetings on radioactive waste

Such interface provides real value for money to all NFLA member councils.

## NFLA National Forum Developments

**NFLA Scotland** held a business meeting in Lerwick, Shetland Islands on the 19<sup>th</sup> June.

The meeting involved a 'video-conference' to allow involvement of the NFLA Secretary and Chair.

A NFLA membership development pack was approved and a seminar on the key nuclear

issues for Scotland agreed for October in Glasgow.

### **NFLA England and NFLA Wales**

are holding a joint Forum meeting considering the major changes to the planning laws. Logistics on the date of the meeting are being agreed with Liverpool City Council and it is hoped to hold the meeting in September.

**NFLA Ireland** is holding a seminar in October considering the effect of new nuclear build on Ireland. The recent elections means a number of new councils and councillors will be invited.

The NFLA Secretariat is liaising with the Irish and UK Governments over concerns of nuclear shipments, as noted in the April newsletter.

## Forthcoming NFLA meetings

NFLA Wales / NFLA England joint meeting – **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept, Liverpool Town Hall (tbc).**

NFLA Steering Committee and new build seminar -

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept - Manchester Town Hall.**

NFLA Scotland – **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October, Glasgow City Chambers (tbc).**

NFLA All Ireland – **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

**Bray Civic Offices, Irish Republic.**

*Early notification:*  
NFLA UK / Ireland AGM, SC and seminar – **3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009 in Ireland (tbc)**