



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

For immediate release, 1st April 2009

What is the future energy and waste mix for Wales? Nuclear or renewable - or both?

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) Welsh Forum will meet this **Friday, 3rd April, in Bridgend Civic Offices**. The Forum is holding a special seminar with two high quality speakers – Gordon James from Friends of the Earth and Hugh Richards from the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance.

After years of decline, nuclear power has suddenly become popular again with support from the UK government to develop a new programme of nuclear power stations. Indeed, the deadline for potential applications for sites to be developed as nuclear power station ended yesterday, and it is expected that a site near the existing Wylfa power station in Anglesey will be on the list.

Is nuclear power a part of the energy mix for Wales? Is the proposed Severn Tidal Barrage system in South Wales the answer? Or, as the NFLA believe, is a concerted effort for renewable power sources such as wind, tidal, solar and CHP (combined heat and power); coupled with Councils leading their communities in developing high levels of energy efficiency a more appropriate answer for the principality? Gordon James, Director of Friends of the Earth in Wales will give his considered opinion on these issues to NFLA councillors and officers at the seminar in Bridgend.

A key additional concern with the potential development of nuclear power is the creation of large levels of radioactive waste. After 50 years of nuclear power in the UK, a long-term solution to storing such waste has still not been decided upon. What should the Welsh Government's solution to this problem be? Hugh Richards of the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance and the Nuclear Consultation Group is a leading figure in the radioactive waste management debate and has recently put forward his own views to the Welsh Assembly. He will explain further at the seminar.

NFLA Chair, Councillor George Regan said:

"I am delighted that we have two excellent speakers to inform the NFLA Welsh Forum of future strategies to deal with the existing and potential future nuclear legacy in Wales. The Welsh Government needs to consider carefully whether it wishes to support nuclear new build and the location of radioactive waste stores. Following this seminar, the NFLA Welsh Forum will be writing to First Minister Rhodri Morgan stating our views that Wales goes nuclear free like the Republic of Ireland."

Ends

The flyer for the NFLA Welsh Forum seminar is attached below.

For interview with the NFLA Chair or NFLA Welsh Forum members contact the NFLA Secretary, Sean Morris on **0161 234 3244 or 07771 930196**.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

Seminar, AGM and Business Meeting

10.00am – 1.30pm, Friday April 3rd 2009

Location: Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Bridgend

PROGRAMME

- 10.00am **Registration:** Tea/Coffee
- 10.20am **Morning Seminar**
- Welcome**
- Cllr George Regan, NFLA Chair, Dundee City Council
 Cllr Peter Foley, Bridgend County Borough Council
- Seminar – Welsh Energy Policy: What is the right energy mix and
 how does Wales deal with its nuclear waste legacy?**
- 10.30am Gordon James, Director, Friends of the Earth Wales – Is the Severn
 Tidal Barrage the energy answer for Wales? Or are there other
 alternatives – renewable and nuclear?
- 11.00am Hugh Richards, Director, Welsh Anti Nuclear Alliance (WANA) and
 member of the Nuclear Consultation Group – nuclear new build and the
 radioactive waste legacy
- 11.30am Panel Discussion
- 11.45am **Conclusion**
- Tea/Coffee
- 12.00pm **NFLA Welsh Forum AGM and Business Meeting**
- 13.00pm **Close of Meeting, buffet lunch**

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES