



1. **Election of Chair and Vice Chairs**

Cllr Peter Lloyd JP, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, was elected to the NFLA Chair's position, replacing Cllr George Regan, Dundee City Council, who stood down after three years dedicated service. Councillor Mike Rumney, Fife Council, continues as NFLA Vice Chair (Scotland) and Councillor Bill Risby, Manchester City Council, continues as NFLA Vice Chair (England). The NFLA Vice Chair (Wales) position, vacated by Cllr Peter Lloyd was left vacant pending the outcome of an invitation to the current Wales Forum Vice Chair, Cllr Gwen Griffiths, Gwynedd County Council, to take up the position.

2. **Annual Report**

The Secretary reported on a very successful year to November 2005. Notable achievements included:

- launching an All Ireland NFLA Forum and continuing to develop membership in Ireland;
- securing from UK Nirex Ltd the publication of information about 537 sites across the UK surveyed in the 1980s and early 1990s for deep geological disposal of radioactive waste;
- engaging with the new Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and securing a change in decommissioning policy. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has given its support to a 25 year site decommissioning programme rather than the former 130 year programmes promoted by both BNFL and British Energy;
- preventing the transportation of low level radioactive wastes from Dounreay in Caithness to Drigg in West Cumbria;
- delivery of a very successful 7th Joint Irish and UK Local Authorities Conference in Drogheda, Ireland in March 2005 and planning for an 8th joint conference in City Hall, London next March to mark the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster (details at: www.nuclearpolicy.info).



Other work undertaken in the year to November 2005 included:

- engagement by NFLA staff and advisers with Government Departments (DEFRA, DTI and MoD), the nuclear operators (BNFL/BNG, BE and UKAEA), regulators (NII, EA and SEPA), CoRWM and the NDA, and many environmental non governmental organizations and citizens public interest groups to promote NFLA policy;
- regular publication of briefings for members and wider circulation to promote NFLA policy;
- assistance with the development of the Local Government Association's Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum (on radioactive waste management and nuclear decommissioning). The NFLA Legal Adviser has contributed policy advice to the Forum and a good deal of common ground between NFLAs and the NuLeAF on policy towards 'legacy issues' in the nuclear industry has been identified;
- assistance with the co-ordination and promotion of the international Mayors for Peace nuclear non proliferation campaign. This has involved the organisation of UK Mayors for Peace working group meetings at Leeds Civic Hall (9 December 2004) City Hall, London (24 June 2005) and Manchester Town Hall (4 November 2005);
- engaging through consultative processes, workshops, meetings and correspondence, with the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management that is tasked by DEFRA to produce recommendations by the end of 2006 on a national policy for the management of higher level radioactive wastes in the UK;
- engaging through consultative processes, workshops, meetings and correspondence, with the DEFRA and Devolved Administration review of Low Level Radioactive Waste Management policy;
- engaging with the Ministry of Defence on its programme of public consultation about options for land storage of decommissioned nuclear submarines;
- reporting on and proposing policy responses to, the emerging national debate about the costs and benefits of a new nuclear construction programme in the UK;
- advising on the application of new regulations (2004) requiring the Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation;
- advising on the application of new regulations requiring strategic environmental assessment in the field of energy and waste policy;
- advising on the implications of new DTI policy on decommissioning nuclear facilities;
- advising on new HSE criteria for delicensing nuclear sites;
- advising on the implications of new OCNS policy in "Finding a Balance: Guidance on the sensitivity of nuclear related information and its disclosure";
- advising on the coming into force on 1 January 2005 of the rights of access to information under the Freedom of Information Act (and parallel legislation in Scotland);
- researching the impacts of new Civil Contingences legislation upon existing nuclear emergency planning requirements;

- engaging in the CIRIA led *SD:SPUR* and *Safegrounds* policy work about the management of very low level radioactively contaminated materials and land;
- alerting the local authority planning community to the impact of national security measures upon the local development control process when controversial nuclear develop is proposed;
- challenging planning proposals for new development on the Aldermaston site to support the UK's nuclear weapons programme and assisting neighbouring local authorities in this matter;
- responding to the Environment Agency consultation on new authorisations for the disposal of low level radioactive waste at Drigg in Cumbria; and
- responding to DEFRA's consultation on managing radioactively contaminated land outside licensed nuclear sites.

3. **English Forum**

The English Forum Chair, Councillor Alan Matthews, reported on the Forum's meetings in the twelve months to November 2005. Over the past year the Forum had: raised objections with the Secretary of State for Defence about further development at the Aldermaston nuclear weapons site; organized a seminar to provide a briefing on the case against new nuclear build; briefed members on the implications of information released by UK Nirex Ltd about sites previously surveyed for a nuclear waste facility; briefed members on the implementation of the Civil Contingencies Act; and reviewed Forum policy priorities and profile.

4. **Scottish Steering Committee**

The Convener for NFLA (Scotland), Councillor David Stevenson, reported on the work of the Steering Committee in the year to September 2005. During the year the Committee had: successfully lobbied to prevent the transport of radioactive waste from Dounreay to Drigg; lobbied for increased safety of radioactive wastes transported by sea; identified and adopted environmental principles to guide its decision making on radioactive waste management proposals; responded to different consultations on aspects of decommissioning at the Dounreay site; initiated in consultation with CoSLA a new group of authorities in Scotland to address nuclear legacy issues; and backed the call from two former environment ministers for an inquiry into spending decisions on the Sellafield MOX Plant.

5. **Wales Forum**

The Wales Forum Chair reported briefly on activities. The Forum continues to closely monitor developments at Trecwn, Pembrokeshire, where radioactive waste storage had been proposed by a previous site owner. Publication of information in June by UK Nirex Ltd confirmed the Trecwn had also been surveyed for nuclear waste disposal in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Cllr Luke, Pembrokeshire County Council, had participated in the DEFRA low level radioactive waste policy review during the year and Cllr Jones, Flintshire County Council had represented NFLA interests at LGA NuLeAF meetings. Trawsfynydd decommissioning continues as a key concern for the Forum, as does the potential for any new nuclear build in Wales. On the latter point, the Forum is seeking an assurance from the Welsh Secretary that there will be no new nuclear build in Wales.

6. Financial Report

In Financial Year 2004/2005 the Secretary reported a surplus of £6,230 though on present income and expenditure forecasts, overspends were projected in 2005/06 (around £20,000) and 2006/07 (around £14,000). Income generation opportunities will continue to be identified and prioritized to minimize any year end deficits.

On the advice of Manchester City Council Treasurer's Department the AGM agreed to increase NFLA affiliation rates by 3% in the coming financial year to take account of projected inflation. Member authorities are asked to note the revised rates below and make budgetary provision in FY 2006/2007:

<u>Population</u>	<u>Affiliation Rate</u>
over one million	£4,998
500k - one million	£3,572
200k - 500k	£2,134
100k - 200k	£1,310
up to 100k	£ 825

Rates for fire authorities and associate authorities in the Rol are 50% of the above.

7. Status of NFLA support

The AGM was informed about NFLA membership at October 2004 and at October 2005. In that period net membership had fallen slightly from 74 to 72 local authorities.

8. AGM Resolutions

- 8.1 *That this AGM condemns the Government's expressed intention to consider replacing Trident as a clear breach of its obligations under the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty and flagrant encouragement to other nations to retain or acquire their own nuclear weapons.*

Moved: Cllr Regan, Dundee City Council
Seconded: Cllr Matthews, Bury MBC
Carried unanimously

- 8.2 *That this AGM: is concerned about the serious leak of highly active liquids within the THORP reprocessing plant; is concerned that the leak remained undetected for over six months; notes the Plant is likely to be out of commission for up to, and possibly beyond, one year; considers unprocessed spent nuclear fuel contracted for THORP should be stored pending agreement on alternative management arrangements; therefore urges the NDA to recommend to Government that the THORP plant remain closed.*

Moved: Cllr Al Serraj, Preston City Council
Seconded: Cllr Risby, Manchester City Council
Carried unanimously

- 8.3 *That this AGM is concerned about any transports of highly radioactive materials by sea from Britain to the Continent using roll on roll off ferries and instructs the NFLA Secretary to convey this concern to relevant British Ministers in advance of the meeting by North Sea Senior Officials on 9/10 November 2005.*

Moved: Cllr Gregson, Shetland Islands Council
Seconded: Cllr Rumney, Fife Council
Carried unanimously

For more information on any of the above matters contact: **Stewart Kemp** 0161 234 3244 or email: office@nuclearpolicy.info