

Nuclear Free Local Authorities **briefing**



Date: **20 November 2001**

Subject: **Summary of NFLA Policy Work in the twelve months to the October 2001 NFLA AGM**

Over the past year the NFLA Steering Committee has undertaken the following work on behalf of member authorities. Contact the NFLA Secretariat for more information on any of the matters summarised below.

- assisting BNFL through dialogue over the future of the Magnox and THORP reprocessing lines at Sellafield.
- responding to a public consultation on Magnox station radioactive discharges and presenting a case for discharge reduction and elimination.
- responding to two public consultations on the Sellafield MOX Plant and presenting a case for its abandonment.
- presenting a case to the HSE for the earliest achievable clearance of Highly Active Wastes at Sellafield.
- responding to an Environment Agency public consultation about Technetium-99 abatement and presenting a case for early reductions.
- successfully making the case for an end to reprocessing at Dounreay.
- keeping local authorities informed on key issues in radioactive waste management policy.
- joining NGOs to work on a new set of radioactive waste management principles.
- engaging with UK Nirex Ltd on policy development for future radioactive waste management.
- assisting in MoD policy development for decommissioned nuclear submarine storage.
- publishing detailed research on the hazards of radioactively contaminated material entering the scrap metal supply chain.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



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- assisting Government agencies in the identification of principles to guide remediation work on radioactively contaminated land.
- responding to an Environment Agency consultation about the Principles for the Assessment of Public Doses from radioactive discharges.
- responding to a DETR consultation about Statutory Guidance on the Regulation of Radioactive Discharges in the Environment from Nuclear Licensed Sites.
- responding to a DETR consultation on proposals for the revision of the public access to environmental information regime.
- contributing to European debate on radioactive waste management principles through the EU COWAM programme.
- assisting BNFL in the identification of environmentally acceptable policy for nuclear site decommissioning, and specifically assisting relevant authorities in their consideration of proposals for the decommissioning of the Trawsfynydd station.
- participating in a Royal Institute for International Affairs' project to identify the risks and benefits of nuclear energy with a view to informing public debate and national policy development.
- responding to the Government review of energy policy, identifying the obstacles to new nuclear build and proposing mechanisms for public engagement in decision making on proposed future nuclear development.
- reporting to members on the challenge to the legality of site radioactive discharge authorisations at Aldermaston.
- reporting to members on the implementation of the Radiation Emergency Preparedness & Public Information Regulations and informing HSE of where more work is needed.
- participating in a Food Standards Agency consultative exercise on approaches to determining radioactive dose assessment.
- highlighting potential hazards of the uses of depleted uranium in civil society.
- assisting the Greater London Authority inquiry into the transportation of nuclear materials by rail through the Capital.
- assisting the Scottish Parliament Petitions Committee in its consideration of nuclear submarine public safety plans.
- drawing DTI attention to possible defects in the implementation in the UK of regulations on the justification for nuclear practices.
- briefing councils on the potential local implications of US ballistic missile defence policy.
- identifying potential implications of major terrorist attacks against nuclear facilities.