



Date: 15 December 2003

No. 35

Subject: **Summary of the main points from the NFLA Steering Committee Meeting, Town Hall, Manchester, 16 October 2003**

1. **Solid Radioactive Waste Management Policy**

The Secretary and Legal Adviser reported on: the Dounreay public consultation on options for managing low level radioactive wastes; the Dounreay consultation on disposal of radioactive oils and solvents; progress with the establishment of a general local government 'special interest group' on radioactive waste management and decommissioning issues; further efforts by the Legal Adviser to obtain the publication of information about the list of sites formerly identified by Nirex as potentially suitable for radioactive waste disposal; and progress with the Government's radioactive waste policy development process. Considering the report the Steering Committee decided:

- *that the Secretary and Legal Adviser liaise with the NFLA(Scotland) Secretary in the preparation of a response to the Dounreay public consultation on options for managing low level radioactive wastes.*

2. **Consultation on Radioactive Discharges from Faslane Nuclear Submarine Base**

The Legal Adviser briefly reported on a Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) consultation on a request by MoD for 'agreement' to discharge radioactive wastes from the nuclear submarine base at Faslane. The Legal Adviser proposed that the Steering Committee and NFLA(S) jointly respond to the consultation arguing that the 'agreement' process is no longer lawful and that a legally-binding 'authorisation' is necessary (a) to comply with current European law and (b) because military sites are, contrary to the MoD's legal view, covered by European law. The Legal Adviser submitted that activities at Faslane must be 'justified' by demonstrating a net 'benefit' and that the European Commission must be asked about the transboundary implications of the discharges for the Republic of Ireland as a matter of law. Considering the report the Committee decided:

- *that the Legal Adviser, in consultation with NFLA(S), make a submission to SEPA in the terms outlined in his report.*



3. **Consultation on Land Storage of Decommissioned Nuclear Submarines**

The Secretary informed members of a consultation that was underway, conducted by Lancaster University on behalf of the MoD, about narrowing options for the future interim land storage of retired nuclear propelled submarine. Considering the report the Steering Committee decided:

- *that that Secretary, in consultation with the Legal Adviser, prepare a response to the MoD public consultation on preferred options for the interim storage of decommissioned nuclear submarines.*

4. **Radioactive Waste Transportation**

The Legal Adviser introduced a discussion paper as a first approach to agreeing an NFLA policy on radioactive waste transportation. Considering the report the Steering Committee decided:

- *that the Secretariat produce a final draft policy statement in the light of feedback from the Committee and other interested parties.*

5. **NFLA Forum Reports**

The meeting of the NFLA Steering Committee on 16 October received: minutes of the English Forum meeting in Reading on 20 June and a report on the associated seminar about developments at the Aldermaston site; minutes of the Wales Forum meeting in Port Talbot on 11 July; and minutes of the NFLA (Scotland) meeting in Lerwick on 5 September.

6. **NFLA Finance and Development Working Group Meeting**

The Secretary submitted a draft note of the first meeting of the working group with recommended actions for Committee approval. Considering the note the Committee decided:

- *that draft terms of reference for the Finance and Development Working Group be agreed*
- *that NFLA services, through the Local Authorities Nuclear Policy Advisory Service (LANPAS), be promoted amongst Police and Fire Authorities*
- *that Scottish and Welsh NFLAs, at their next meeting, be asked to consider contributing to a fund to develop NFLA communications*
- *that a proportion (to be identified) of NFLA reserves be allocated to develop NFLA communications*
- *that the Legal Adviser review NFLA terms of reference and report to the Steering Committee before the 2004 NFLA AGM*
- *that Forums in England and Wales consider producing an information leaflet similar in style and content to the leaflet recently produced by NFLA(S)*
- *that a seminar to promote LANPAS development be organised as soon as possible.*

7. **Mayors for Peace Executive Conference, Town Hall, Manchester 17 – 18 October 2003**

The Secretary informed the Committee about a meeting of International Mayors for Peace Executive Cities in Manchester immediately following the close of NFLA business on Friday 17 October. The Mayors' meeting was expected to agree a proposal for a cities' campaign to press for progress on nuclear non proliferation at the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty 'Prepcom' in 2004 and at the NNPT Review Conference in 2005. Considering the report the Steering Committee decided:

- *to note the report.*

8. **Progress Report**

The Secretary & Legal Adviser briefly reported on: developments with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; submission of a complaint to the European Commission about failure by management at the Aldermaston nuclear weapons factory to comply with European radiation protection law; a decision by the European Commission endorsing advice by the Legal Adviser that it is illegal for local authorities to permit British Energy to suspend payment of business rates; the outcome of the Trawsfynydd planning inquiry; the failure of the Committee to persuade DTI to set up a transparent process for ongoing review of the prospects for new nuclear build in the UK; submission of a response by the English NFLA Forum to a consultation on draft Civil Contingencies legislation; a press report (subsequently repudiated) suggesting MoD might be about to phase out the use of depleted uranium munitions; the Legal Adviser's current work programme; and an invitation by Glasgow City Council to host the 6th joint UK and Irish Local Authorities conference on nuclear hazards. Considering the report the Steering Committee decided to:

- *welcome the invitation from Glasgow City Council to host the 6th joint UK and Irish local authorities conference on nuclear hazards between 25-26 March 2004*
- *ask the NFLA Secretary to bring to the next Committee a draft conference programme for consideration*

9. **Diary Dates**

NFLA Steering Committee	Manchester	16 January 2004
NFLA (Scotland)	Dalkeith	9 January 2004
English Forum	Preston	23 January 2004
Wales Forum	Caernarfon	23 January 2004
6 th Joint UK/Irish Conference on Nuclear Hazards	Glasgow	25 – 26 March 2004
NFLA Steering Committee	Glasgow	26 March 2004
NFLA Steering Committee	Manchester	9 July 2004
NFLA Steering Committee		October 2004 (date and venue TBA – prior to 2004 AGM and Annual Policy Briefing)

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