



Subject: **Summary of NFLA AGM, Town Hall, Manchester, 17 October 2003**

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

Councillor George Regan, Dundee City Council, was returned as NFLA Chair through to the 2004 AGM. Councillor Mike Rumney, Fife Council, continues as NFLA Vice Chair (Scotland), Councillor Bill Risby, Manchester City Council, continues as NFLA Vice Chair (England), and Councillor Peter Lloyd, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, continues as NFLA Vice Chair (Wales). All nominations were unanimously supported.

## 2. **Annual Report**

The Annual Report recapped the range of services which the NFLA Steering Committee continues to provide for member authorities including legal advice; policy advice; representation on outside bodies, reports and information; parliamentary and media promotion; a member enquiry service; and regular Policy Briefing/seminar organisation.

The Report set out: NFLA press and promotional work; the range of briefing materials and reports prepared by the Secretariat, advisers and externally commissioned experts; and the main activities throughout the year which had been carried out in pursuance of NFLA policy priorities. This included:

- producing guidance for local authorities and responding to the DTI Consultation on Energy Policy;
- producing guidance for local authorities and responding to the DEFRA and devolved administration consultation on Radioactive Waste Management Policy development;
- producing guidance for local authorities and responding to the DTI consultation on the creation of a Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and responding to a subsidiary review of Local Liaison Committees;



- advising MoD on consultation about options for land storage of decommissioned submarines;
- participating in a planning inquiry assessing proposals for development associated with the decommissioning of the Trawsfynydd nuclear station;
- identifying options for the management of the UK plutonium stockpile (via the Environment Council mediated BNFL Stakeholder dialogue);
- identifying criteria for remediation of radioactively contaminated sites (via the Environment Council mediated *Safegrounds* dialogue);
- identifying options for managing the decommissioning of Magnox nuclear stations (via the Environment Council mediated 'Magnox' dialogue);
- scrutinising options for managing wastes at Dounreay (including a site visit by members of NFLA (Scotland));
- producing guidance for local authorities and co-ordinating an international local government lobby of OSPAR Ministers ahead of their June 2003 meeting, to press for further reductions in marine radioactive discharges;
- continuing to monitor reports of radioactive materials in scrap metals and respond to press and research inquiries;
- continuing to monitor reports of health and environmental harm resulting from depleted uranium contamination;
- continuing to monitor the implementation of the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001;
- continuing to monitor the progress of the Civil Contingencies Bill;
- advising affected local authorities that they would be in breach of European Law if they agreed to a British Energy request to defer payment of Company business rates;
- continuing to seek the release of information about sites across the UK previously shortlisted by UK Nirex Ltd as suitable for radioactive waste disposal;
- identifying the implications for local authorities of UK involvement in US Ballistic Missile Defense proposals and responding to an MoD discussion paper about this;
- producing legal advice about the scope for achieving public accountability over development at AWE Aldermaston, RAF Fylingdales and RAF Menwith Hill;
- assisting the international Mayors for Peace organisation by advising on arrangements for the Leeds' Mayors for Peace Forum in January 2003 and organizing a meeting of Mayors for Peace Executive Cities in Manchester, October 2003 that will launch a new Mayors' Nuclear Non Proliferation Initiative; and
- producing a legal advice about the powers of Local Authorities to promote peace.

The Secretary concluded by emphasizing that NFLA work would continue to be directed at improving standards of public and environmental safety and security whilst driving down nuclear hazards.

### 3. **English Forum**

The Chair of the English Forum, Councillor Michael McGowan, highlighted the main points from the Forum Annual Report. Over the year the Forum had considered the implications for local authorities of a number of developments affecting: radioactive waste management policy; nuclear industry legacy management, emergency planning and the civil contingencies bill; safety at Aldermaston; depleted uranium hazards; and British Nuclear Test Veterans.

### 4. **Scottish Steering Committee**

The Convener for NFLA (Scotland), Councillor David Stevenson, introduced the Scottish Steering Committee Annual Report. Matters highlighted included: developments at Dounreay and the NFLA(S) site visit; radioactive waste management policy; decommissioned nuclear submarines at Rosyth; nuclear emergency planning; and safety of nuclear fuel transports in Scotland.

### 5. **Wales Forum**

The Wales Forum Secretary reported the activities of the Forum throughout the year which included scrutiny of: the use of Trecwn former naval storage depot; the public inquiry into Trawsfynydd decommissioning; the future of the Wylfa nuclear site; Sellafield and its impact on Wales; nuclear emergency planning including the draft civil contingencies bill; long term radioactive waste management; developments at the Nycomed works, Cardiff; the prospects for new nuclear build; and monitoring for radioactive materials at ports and airports in Wales.

### 6. **Financial Report**

The AGM considered a report on the income and expenditure for the NFLA Steering Committee in financial year 2002/2003 and considered estimates for income and expenditure in financial year 2003/2004 and financial year 2004/2005. In Financial Year 2002/2003 the Secretary reported a surplus of £1,510. However, a small deficit in the current financial year was projected. NFLA staff continued to implement programmes (i.e. extending NFLA associate links to Ireland and promoting the *Local Authorities Nuclear Policy Advisory Service* amongst non NFLA councils) in an effort to develop new income streams and balance income and expenditure in 2004/05.

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 2004/2005:

<u>Population</u>	<u>Affiliation Rate</u>
over one million	£4,575
500k - one million	£3,269
200k - 500k	£1,954
100k - 200k	£1,199
up to 100k	£ 755

Rates for Fire Authorities are 50% of the above.

## **Status of NFLA support**

The NFLA Secretary introduced a report detailing membership at October 2002 and at October 2003. In that period membership had fallen slightly from 82 local authorities to 80.

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