



Subject: **Summary of NFLA AGM, Guildhall, Hull, 14 October 2004**

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

Councillor George Regan, Dundee City Council, was returned as NFLA Chair through to the 2005 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; regular policy briefing; and 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 addressing public safety, public accountability, sustainability and environmental impacts of continuing nuclear operations. Specific activities included:

- monitoring, 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 the Department of Trade and Industry on draft legislation for the new Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, and assisting the DTI with the development of a framework for stakeholder engagement with the NDA;
- monitoring, reporting on and assisting the new Committee on Radioactive Waste Management that is tasked by DEFRA to produce recommendations by July 2006 on a national policy for the management of higher level radioactive wastes in the UK;
- monitoring and reporting on information in the public domain about security risks associated with nuclear sites, nuclear transports and radioactive materials, including assisting the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology in the preparation of its report published in July 2004;



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- producing a detailed draft policy for consultation about the justification for radioactive waste transportation;
- responding to the DTI's consultation on policy towards the decommissioning of the UK's nuclear industry's facilities;
- responding to the DTI's consultation on policy towards intermediate level radioactive waste substitution;
- responding to a UKAEA consultation on options for the management of low level wastes at the Dounreay site;
- continuing to advise and assist the Ministry of Defence on its programme of public consultation about options for land storage of decommissioned nuclear submarines;
- seeking transparency from the Ministry of Defence on its review of coastal sites that could be suitable for the storage of radioactive wastes arising from the decommissioning of nuclear submarines, and advising local authorities seeking information about this;
- responding to an Environment Agency public consultation on radioactive waste discharge authorisations for the Springfields nuclear fuel fabrication plant;
- responding to a SEPA public consultation on radioactive waste discharge authorisations for the Faslane nuclear submarine base;
- responding to a SEPA public consultation on radioactive waste discharge authorisations for the Rosyth Dockyard;
- continuing to participate in, and report on, the Environment Council mediated BNFL 'stakeholder dialogue' which is producing recommendations about how BNFL can improve its environmental performance;
- continuing to report on incidents involving radioactive materials in scrap metals and responding to press and research inquiries;
- commissioning research on the implications of draft IAEA guidance on proposed new thresholds for the unregulated 'clearance' of slightly radioactively contaminated materials;
- continuing to monitor reports of health and environmental harm resulting from depleted uranium contamination;
- continuing to monitor developments in, and report on, the scientific debate about low level radiation and risk;
- continuing to seek the release of information about sites across the UK previously shortlisted by UK Nirex Ltd as suitable for radioactive waste disposal;
- continuing to assist the Construction Industry's Research & Information Association on the development of criteria for the remediation of radioactively contaminated land (via the *Safegrounds* project);

- producing legal arguments that were successfully applied to force MoD to withdraw a defective 'Notice of Proposed Development' at AWE Aldermaston;
- submitting to the European Commission a complaint about the failure of AWE Aldermaston management to comply with European radiation protection law;
- reporting on the implications of the Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004;
- reporting on the implications of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004;
- reporting on the implications of Freedom of Information legislation that will come into force in 2005; and
- supporting member authorities in their engagement with consultative processes (e.g. attending Nuclear Decommissioning Authority workshops and responding to the Dounreay consultation on the disposal of radioactively contaminated oils and solvents).

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 newly elected Chair of the English Forum, Councillor Alan Matthews, paid tribute to his predecessor, Cllr Michael McGowan, and commended the work of the Forum to the AGM. Thanks and appreciation was extended to the Forum Secretary, Sean Morris, and other NFLA staff. Over the year the Forum had considered the implications for local authorities of a number of policy issues and made representations to Government where necessary e.g. on the Civil Contingencies Bill and over new facilities at Aldermaston that could be used for research and development of new nuclear weapons. Other important concerns considered included radioactive waste management and nuclear transportation policy.

4. **Scottish Steering Committee**

The Convener for NFLA (Scotland), Councillor David Stevenson, introduced the Scottish Steering Committee Annual Report. He paid special tribute to the work of Ms Carol McPherson who had served as NFLA (Scotland) Secretary for 7 years but was now taking up a new position within Glasgow City Council. Other NFLA staff and advisers were thanked – particularly the NFLA(S) policy adviser, Mr Pete Roche.

Amongst the policy issues highlighted in the past year's work were: nuclear waste transportation; new nuclear build in Scotland; developments at Dounreay; stakeholder engagement with the new Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; and decommissioned nuclear submarine management at Rosyth.

5. **Wales Forum**

The Wales Forum Chair reported the activities of the Forum throughout the year which included scrutiny of: the use of the former naval munitions storage depot at Trecwn; the public inquiry into Trawsfynydd decommissioning; the future of the Wylfa nuclear site;

Sellafield and its impact on Wales; links to the National Assembly of Wales; nuclear emergency planning including the draft civil contingencies bill; future NFLA development; long term radioactive waste management; developments at the Nycomed works, Cardiff; and the prospects for new nuclear build in Wales. NFLA staff were thanked for their support and the Chair extended his particular thanks to the Wales Forum Secretary, Keith Davies, for his continued support and advice throughout the year.

6. **New NFLA Development Adviser**

The AGM approved a draft job description, person specification, draft contract and appointment process for an NFLA development adviser. The purpose of this new advisory role will be to improve communication of NFLA work within local government and seek new funding opportunities. It was intended to fill this new position by the beginning of 2005.

7. **Financial Report**

The AGM considered a report on the income and expenditure for the NFLA Steering Committee in financial year 2003/2004 and considered estimates for income and expenditure in financial year 2004/2005 and financial year 2005/2006.

In Financial Year 2003/2004 the Secretary reported a deficit of £3,540 though this figure was expected to increase to around £10,000 in 2004/05 due to the appointment of a new NFLA Development Adviser (see Item 6. above).

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 2005/2006:

<u>Population</u>	<u>Affiliation Rate</u>
over one million	£4,853
500k - one million	£3,468
200k - 500k	£2,072
100k - 200k	£1,272
up to 100k	£ 801

Rates for Fire Authorities are 50% of the above.

8. **Status of NFLA support**

The AGM was informed about NFLA membership at October 2003 and at October 2004. In that period net membership had fallen slightly from 80 to 74 local authorities.

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