



NFLA English Forum Autumn Seminar
Aldermaston & Burghfield, nuclear weapon convoys & proliferation – safety, emergency planning & wider issues

Date: Friday 24th October 2014

Location: St Aldate's Room, Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, OX1 1BX.

For many years, the NFLA has been concerned about the safety and emergency planning of UK defence nuclear sites and over the transportation of radioactive materials and nuclear weapons. In this seminar, NFLA will consider concerns that have come to light from reports of the nuclear regulator on defence sector nuclear safety, and a Freedom of Information request that raises safety concerns about nuclear weapons convoys.

The seminar will first focus on other issues of interest with the two atomic weapon establishment facilities of Aldermaston and Burghfield. The UK's independent nuclear regulator has placed the Aldermaston facility under 'special measures' of regulation for a second year running because of the safety risks posed on the site. Why? Both Aldermaston and Burghfield are also on a Ministry of Defence shortlist of five sites for the storage of intermediate level radioactive waste from nuclear powered submarines that will be dismantled in the next few years. What safety implications exist at the site, and how would hosting an ILW store impact further on these issues?

The seminar will also consider the safety of nuclear weapon convoys, which start from AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield and go up the motorway and A-road network of England and Scotland to the naval bases at Faslane and Coulport, have been involved in over 70 safety mishaps in published figures from 2007 – 2012. This seminar will bring to light to a wider audience these incidents and raise safety and emergency planning concerns that the NFLA and other groups have held for some time.

The seminar will conclude with an overview of how international disarmament groups like ICAN are co-operating with the likes of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki-led Mayors for Peace, NFLA and other groups over the next year. What are the actual risks and consequences of nuclear weapons in our troubled world, where many other conflicts exist, and why is the next year so important in the debate on this issue?

This FREE seminar will consider such questions and provide some expert contributions. All NFLA member councils, interested non-member councillors and officers, relevant trade associations and interested local and national groups are very welcome to attend.

PROGRAMME (speakers are subject to change)

9.45am	Registration: Tea/Coffee
10.15am	Welcomes: Councillor Van Coulter, Oxford City Council and Councillor David Blackburn, NFLA English Forum Chair.
10.20am	Defence nuclear sector safety concerns at AWE Aldermaston and other sites – why is Aldermaston in 'special measures' for a second year? Peter Burt, Research Manager, Nuclear Information Service (confirmed)
10.45am	The dismantling of nuclear submarines – where may the intermediate radioactive waste go and what are the key issues around such storage? Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary (confirmed)
11.15am	Nuclear weapons convoys – a public safety risk? Nigel Day, Oxford branch of Nukewatch (confirmed)
11.40am	The risks and consequences of nuclear weapons to large cities and the international disarmament context - Rebecca Sharkey, International Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons (ICAN-UK) (confirmed)
12.05pm	Panel Discussion



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Registration Details

The seminar is a free event open to NFLA members and officers, interested non member councillors and officers and relevant local and national interested groups.

If you are planning to attend, could you please fill in the appropriate details and post, email or fax to the address at the bottom of this form:

Name	Authority / Group	Correspondence address (email or postal)

Venue and details of accommodation:

Oxford Town Hall is in the city centre of Oxford on St Aldate's. Directions will be emailed to attendee, giving relevant information and a map. It can also be downloaded from the website link:

<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/leisure/town-hall.cfm> or

<http://oxford.gov.uk/Direct/82201DirectionstoOxfordTownHall.pdf>.

Tourist and hotel accommodation can be found at: <http://www.visitoxford.org>. The website

<http://www.universityrooms.com/oxfordrooms> is useful if you are looking to get a reasonably priced room at one of the Oxford Colleges.

Please return this form to:

Sean Morris, NFLA Secretariat, c/o Manchester City Council, City Policy Team, Level 5, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 3NY.

Telephone: **0161 234 3244**

Email: s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk

NFLA website: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>

The NFLA Secretariat thanks officers and councillors in Oxford City Council for kindly hosting the meeting.