



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

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NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 24th March 2014

NFLA calls for ABWR Wylfa and Oldbury proposed reactors not to be 'justified' due to health, energy market and economic reasons at packed Welsh Forum joint meeting

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) is submitting today its response to the UK Government's latest new nuclear consultation. The NFLA calls for the Government *not* to 'justify' under UK and EU law the new Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) design being proposed by the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) on behalf of Hitachi / Horizon Partnership, at Wylfa in Anglesey and Oldbury in Gloucestershire. (1)

The NFLA report was launched at a packed NFLA Welsh Forum joint meeting co-organised with People Against Wylfa B (PAWB), CND Cymru and Friends of the Earth Cymru. (2)

Under EU law, new nuclear reactor designs proposed to be built in the UK have to be formally 'justified'. Justification is a process where the benefits of going ahead with such projects have to be shown as outweighing the risks of the enterprise, in order for them to be approved and a more detailed consideration of them commenced. The EPR design proposed for the Hinkley Point site and the AP-1000 design proposed initially for Wylfa and Oldbury were 'justified' in 2010. With Hitachi taking over from RWE Npower and E-on the Wylfa and Oldbury sites in 2012, its own ABWR design has now to go through the same legal process.

In its submission to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, NFLA make five concluding points:

- NFLA notes a meta-analysis, which merged data from UK, France, Germany and Switzerland, and found a statistically significant 37% increase in childhood leukaemias near nuclear power stations.
- NFLA argue that nuclear power is one of the slowest and most expensive methods of reducing carbon emissions. Investment in nuclear power will, in effect, worsen climate change because each pound we spend is buying less solution than it would do if we were to spend it on energy efficiency for example.
- NFLA believe that the operation of the UK Government's Levy Control Framework means that allocated funds could very easily be used up by new nuclear reactors, thus crowding out renewables and energy efficiency, even if they are cheaper.
- NFLA assert that the idea that the UK needs nuclear power to provide baseload electricity is obsolete.
- NFLA concludes that the experience of ABWRs built so far shows that they are not a reliable technology.

This report was profiled at the NFLA Welsh Forum's joint meeting held in Caernarfon on Saturday gone, 22nd March. At this public meeting support was given to the NFLA submission to DECC and to the European Commission's inquiry on state aid for nuclear power stations. (3)

The meeting also received a thought-provoking presentation from Dr Carl Clowes of PAWB of his visit to the Fukushima area with his son Cian Ciarán Clowes (of the band Super Furry Animals) and he repeated the statement of the Mayor of Minamisoma in the Fukushima Prefecture about proposed construction of Wylfa B – 'Don't, Don't, Don't!' (4)

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Independent marine pollution specialist Tim Deere-Jones also raised much concern in the meeting with his analysis of what the effects of this winter's severe storms, flooding and ongoing climate change may be having on the radioactive discharges routinely discharged into the Irish Sea from west coast nuclear reactors. (4) Independent energy consultant Neil Crumpton provided an analysis of renewable alternatives to the UK Government's proposed huge expansion of nuclear power in its UK 'Energy Pathways' report. (5)

NFLA Chair Councillor Mark Hackett said:

"I was greatly heartened to see so many people from Gwynedd, Anglesey and across Wales attending our joint public meeting raising concerns about the construction of new nuclear reactors at Wylfa B. It proves that a large section of the local population would rather see sustainable local employment, through the concerted development of various renewable energy projects and energy efficiency programmes, rather than a new nuclear reactor at Wylfa.

The NFLA's submission to the UK Government argues that the health dangers, alternative energy options and the economic folly it could create are serious risks to warrant it 'justifying' the Hitachi ABWR design. NFLA notes the related recent concerns of the United Nations Environment Committee on new nuclear build issues and concurs with the general lack of adequate consultation on the Government's nuclear plans." (6)

Ends

For more information please contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 0161 234 3244.

Notes for editors:

- (1) NFLA New Nuclear Monitor 35, giving information on its submission to DECC on the ABWR justification process, is attached with this media release. It can be found on the NFLA website. http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/nuclearmonitor/NFLA_New_Nuclear_Monitor_No35.pdf
- (2) NFLA Secretariat's presentation to the NFLA / PAWB / CND Cymru / FOE Cymru public meeting, Caernarfon, 22nd March
http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/events/220314/NFLA_Caernafon_HP_Wylfa.pdf
- (3) NFLA New Nuclear Monitor 34, giving its submission to the European Commission on the Hinkley Point new nuclear 'strike price' deal
http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/nuclearmonitor/NFLA_New_Nuclear_Monitor_No34.pdf
- (4) Dr Carl Clowes' presentation to the Caernarfon public meeting, 22nd March
http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/events/220314/CC_Fukushima_NFLA.pdf
- (5) Tim Deere-Jones' presentation to the Caernarfon public meeting, 22nd March
http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/events/220314/TDJ_marine_effects_NFLA.pdf
- (6) Neil Crumpton's presentation to the Caernarfon public meeting, 22nd March
http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/events/220314/NFLA_NC_Caernarfon_March_2014.pdf

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