



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

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NFLA English Forum media release - for immediate release, 21st November 2013

NFLA English Forum seminar to consider the risks and transportation issues around radioactively contaminated metals

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) are holding its autumn seminar in Rotherham Town Hall tomorrow, 22nd November, and will be considering the public risks and issues around transportation of contaminated metals around the UK and internationally. (1)

For many years the NFLA have been concerned about the issues relating to low levels of radioactively contaminated scrap metal getting back into the consumer chain, or into scrap yards. It has previously produced a detailed booklet on these issues. (2) The NFLA is seeking to revisit some of the issues from this booklet and newer issues relating to the recycling of contaminated metals (radioactive and other chemical contamination). The NFLA also has some concerns over the NDA's policy to recycle steam generators from decommissioned nuclear reactors at an overseas site in Sweden.

At its June 2013 seminar, the NFLA Secretary outlined a number of incidents around the world where radioactively contaminated metals have been detected at ports or in emergency incidents. The presentation also includes changes to national and international guidelines. (3)

In a globalised economy the seminar will consider what the specific issues of concern are for radiation sources getting into the UK supply chain, and discuss whether current regulations are robust enough. It will also consider what are the risks relating to the transport and recycling of contaminated metals by the nuclear industry. Around the world, it will further consider if there is a growing risk of recycled steel and other metals containing levels of radiation being brought back into the consumer chain.

These issues will be considered in detail with four expert speakers:

- Steve Chandler, Project Executive, Reducing Risks from Radioactive Sources Project, Environment Agency will outline the work of nuclear regulators in this area of concern.
- Craig Ashton of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Low Level Waste Repository, and Kevin Dodd, of metal recycling firm Studsvik UK, will consider NDA waste minimisation policy and the metal component decommissioning of nuclear reactors.
- Tim Deere-Jones, independent marine radioactivity consultant, will consider the decommissioning, transporting and recycling into the metals market of contaminated steam generators by the UK nuclear industry and pose whether it is a sensible policy. Tim Deere-Jones has raised such concerns in recent years for the NFLA. (4)

The NFLA are aware that this is very much an issue of national and international interest, as previous collaboration it has held with local authorities and relevant NGOs in recent years in North America and Scandinavia have raised concerns around transporting such materials by sea over large distances.

Councillor David Blackburn, Chair of the NFLA English Forum, said:

"I welcome this NFLA seminar considering in more detail the issues around contaminated metals. This is a matter many local authorities and port authorities have to deal with. The seminar brings to South Yorkshire some expert speakers who will I am sure educate councils and concerned groups of the major issues with reducing radiation risks to the general public. NFLA remains concerned about the increased amount of transportation of such materials around the British and Irish Isles and across the world. This seminar will assist it in responding to this growing issue of concern."

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Ends

For more information please contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930196.

Notes for editors:

- (1) NFLA English Forum seminar, Rotherham Town Hall, 22nd October 2013, Final Programme:
10.30am **Registration**
11.00am **Welcomes:** Councillor David Blackburn, NFLA English Forum Chair.
11.05am Reducing risks from radioactive sources into the metals market.
Steve Chandler, Project Executive, Reducing Risks from Radioactive Sources Project, Environment Agency (confirmed)
11.35am NDA waste minimisation policy and the metal component decommissioning of nuclear reactors - Craig Ashton, Low Level Waste Repository, and Kevin Dodd, Studsvik (confirmed)
12.05pm The decommissioning, transporting and recycling into the metals market of contaminated steam generators by the UK nuclear industry – a sensible policy?
Tim Deere-Jones, independent marine radioactivity consultant (confirmed)
12.35pm Panel Discussion
1.00pm **Concluding comments and further actions:** Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary
- (2) NFLA booklet on contaminated scrap metal, see:
<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/publications/scrapmetal.php>
- (3) NFLA Secretary's presentation to the NFLA English Forum seminar, Manchester, June 2013:
http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/events/280613/NFLA_transport_steel_presentation.pdf
- (4) See for example NFLA Policy Briefing 95 on transport of steam generators from Berkeley nuclear power station to Sweden, April 2012:
[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/A209_\(NB95\)_Berkeley_Sweden_transport.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/A209_(NB95)_Berkeley_Sweden_transport.pdf)

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