



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 10th December 2014

NFLA All Ireland Forum seminar considers the marine environment implications to Ireland of a UK new nuclear programme and looks at what should be the future energy mix across Ireland

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) All Ireland Forum winter seminar takes place this Friday 12th December in Dublin City Hall. It will focus on two major energy issues – the risks to Ireland of a UK new nuclear programme, and what the island of Ireland's future energy mix could, and should, be. (1)

A UK new nuclear programme has moved a step closer with the recent approval by the European Commission of the state aid deal between the UK Government and EDF to build new nuclear reactors in Somerset, south west England. The NFLA, working closely within the Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe network, supports a likely Austrian Government legal challenge of this decision. The NFLA All Ireland Forum calls on the Government to support Austria with this challenge.

The NFLA seminar will focus on what the marine environmental impacts on Ireland could be of a UK new nuclear programme. An independent marine pollution consultant, Tim Deere-Jones, has analysed the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland's report on these issues for the NFLA and will be providing his views on this report. (2)

The bulk of the seminar will be taken up in considering what the future energy mix on the island of Ireland should be. Ireland is one of the most dependent countries in Europe on energy imports. The seminar will focus on the NFLA's energy vision for Ireland, which its Policy Advisor Pete Roche has submitted to the Government in Dublin as part of its Green Paper consultation. (3)

The NFLA will also profile whether local authorities could play a role in developing renewable energy and energy efficiency. In Britain, cities as diverse as Manchester, Bristol, Aberdeen, Southampton and Nottingham are developing energy service companies to develop ambitious energy generation and demand management projects. Why not do the same in Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Belfast, Newry, and across the island of Ireland? NFLA Secretary Sean Morris will encourage Councils to be bold.

Parallel to this, what role could community energy projects provide in Ireland for developing decentralised projects all over the island? An innovative series of cross-border community energy projects by the Ardee-based UC Investment Trust will be profiled by Donal Traynor.

NFLA All Ireland Forum Co Chair Councillor Mark Dearey said:

"This seminar comes at an important time in Ireland as it considers how to wean itself over its over-dependence of fossil fuels and energy imports. NFLA advocates a new direction of travel with a wide renewable energy mix, a concerted energy efficiency programme and the promotion of Local Authority led energy programmes, coupled with local community energy projects. Such policies should be promoted by government on both sides of the border and there would be an energy 'win-win' for Ireland – a reduction in carbon emissions, income generation for local government, greater energy security and independence and more decentralised and efficient energy sources.

The seminar also points out the real risks to Ireland of a UK new nuclear programme. I call on the Irish Government to back Austria and legally challenge the European Commission's approval of the Hinkley Point new nuclear project in south west England. By doing so, Ireland can stop the promotion of nuclear power across Europe and prevent the potential for a major nuclear accident affecting its own coastal communities."

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Ends

For more information please contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 00 44 (0)161 234 3244 or Pete Roche, NFLA Policy Advisor on 00 44 (0)131 444 1445.

Notes for editors:

- (1) NFLA All Ireland Forum seminar, Members Room, Dublin City Hall, 12th December 2014.
FINAL PROGRAMME:
 - 10.30am Registration and light refreshments.
 - 10.45am Opening welcomes by Councillor Claire Byrne, Dublin City Council and by Councillor Mark Dearey, Louth County Council and Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum.
 - 10.50am What are the marine pollution and public health risks to Ireland of a UK new nuclear reactor programme? Responding to the RPII report – Tim Deere-Jones, independent marine pollution consultant.
 - 11.20am The NFLA vision for the future development of energy policy in Ireland: responding to the Irish Government Energy Paper, and the implications of new nuclear build to Ireland – Pete Roche, NFLA Policy Advisor.
 - 11.50am Developing community energy in Ireland – a case study. Donal Traynor, UC Investment Trust, developing cross border community energy projects.
 - 12.20pm Developing Local Authority Energy Service Companies in Britain – a potential energy solution for Irish Councils? Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary.
 - 12.50pm Panel discussion chaired by the Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum, Councillor Michael Carr, Newry & Mourne District Council and NFLA All Ireland Forum Chair (for 1.20pm conclusion).
- (2) RPII presentation to the NFLA All Ireland Forum seminar, Fingal County Hall, June 7th 2013
http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/events/070613/NFLA_RPII_presentation_report.pdf
Independent nuclear consultant Dr Ian Fairlie's comments on RPII report at same event:
http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/events/070613/NFLA_Ian_Fairlie_RPII_talk_june_13.pdf
- (3) NFLA submission to the Irish Government Green Paper on the future energy mix for Ireland, 28th July 2014
[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/A238_\(NB124\)_Irish_energy_paper.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/A238_(NB124)_Irish_energy_paper.pdf)

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