



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

**NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

## **NFLA All Ireland Forum holds its spring meeting in Newry to discuss nuclear issues affecting Ireland, shale gas and renewable energy developments**

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) All Ireland Forum holds its latest meeting in Newry, where it will be discussing a number of important energy, health and safety matters and considering major changes to local government across the island of Ireland. (1)

The meeting will be considering a number of important nuclear issues that impact on Ireland, including:

- The likelihood that radioactive discharges into the Irish Sea will continue beyond 2020, despite OSPAR Treaty commitments that they should be 'close to zero' by this date. (2)
- The European Commission's consideration of the UK Government – EDF deal for new nuclear reactors at Hinkley Point, which could set a major precedent for European energy policy. (3)
- The health concerns around justifying new nuclear reactors at Wylfa, Anglesey and Oldbury – international health studies show a 37% increase in childhood leukaemia's near nuclear power stations. (4)
- The risks associated with transports of some type of 'roll on, roll off' vessels containing nuclear materials with other dangerous substances. (5)

The seminar will also be considering two other important energy matters affecting Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Matt Kennedy from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland will be considering the development of renewable energy across Ireland. Is renewable energy the main energy solution to Ireland's future needs? Are the public fully involved and engaged in the development of onshore wind, offshore wind and other renewable energy developments? What is the role of Irish local authorities in developing Sustainable Energy Communities?

Declan Allison from Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland will also consider one of the other major energy decisions affecting Ireland – should areas like Fermanagh and the north east of Ireland permit shale gas extraction in their area? What are the environmental concerns that Irish Councils need to know about it?

NFLA All Ireland Forum Co-Chair Councillor Michael Carr said:

"I am delighted to be hosting the NFLA All Ireland Forum meeting in Newry. Nuclear issues regularly impact on all Irish local authorities, despite the island being largely 'nuclear free' of civil or military facilities. It is important Irish councils across the island know about these issues and support the NFLA in lobbying Government and nuclear regulators on our behalf. I am also interested to ensure stronger community buy-in for renewable energy projects in Ireland and I remain concerned about the environmental effects of shale gas fracking, particularly radiation issues with the process. I encourage Irish councillors to attend this important seminar and understand more about these issues and how they affect their local communities."

Ends

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

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES**



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Notes for editors:

- (1) NFLA All Ireland Forum seminar, Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014  
10.30am NFLA All Ireland business meeting – for NFLA members, non-members are welcome to observe.  
11.30am NFLA All Ireland seminar - Opening welcome by Councillor Michael Carr, Newry & Mourne Council and Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum.  
11.35am The benefits of renewable energy in Ireland and how to ensure public support and co-operation for it – Matthew Kennedy, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.  
12.05pm Update on nuclear issues in the UK and the risks to Ireland – Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary.  
12.30pm Shale gas fracking in Ireland – energy solution or environmental danger? Declan Allison, Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland (confirmed).  
1.00pm Panel discussion chaired by the Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum, Councillor Mark Dearey, Dundalk Town Council.
- (2) NFLA Radioactive Waste Policy Briefing 47 – OSPAR Radiation Substances Committee 2014. [http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/radwaste/Rad\\_Waste\\_Brfg\\_47\\_OSPAR\\_RSC\\_2014.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/radwaste/Rad_Waste_Brfg_47_OSPAR_RSC_2014.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](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/nuclearmonitor/NFLA_New_Nuclear_Monitor_No34.pdf)
- (4) New Nuclear Monitor 35, giving information on its submission to DECC on the ABWR justification process. [http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/nuclearmonitor/NFLA\\_New\\_Nuclear\\_Monitor\\_No35.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/nuclearmonitor/NFLA_New_Nuclear_Monitor_No35.pdf)
- (5) NFLA General Policy Briefing 120, raising concerns over marine nuclear transportation. [http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/A234\\_\(NB120\)\\_Marine\\_nuclear\\_transportation.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/briefings/A234_(NB120)_Marine_nuclear_transportation.pdf)

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