



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

**NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

## **NFLA broadly welcomes Welsh Assembly energy inquiry but disagrees on its view over nuclear new build at Wylfa**

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) broadly welcomes the publication of a detailed report by the Welsh Assembly's Environment & Sustainability Committee considering the future direction of Welsh energy policy. It is though disappointed with its majority view on new nuclear build (1).

The report is published following a six month inquiry. The NFLA Welsh Forum submitted a detailed response to the inquiry which advocated the development of a renewable energy revolution, coupled with extensive Council-led energy efficiency programmes and microgeneration programmes. It opposed the development of new nuclear reactors at Wylfa in Anglesey for a variety of cost, environmental, waste management and health reasons (2). The NFLA Welsh Forum Chair was allowed to develop these matters in more detail in an oral presentation to the Committee in March (3).

The NFLA welcomes the strong support given in the Committee report to the promotion of renewable energy - particularly onshore and offshore wind, tidal and wave energy – and the proposal to create a Renewable Energy Delivery Board. This will greatly assist Wales in catching up with the dramatic development of renewable energy production in Scotland.

It also agrees with the Committee's views that it is imperative for the Welsh Government to publish its case for further devolution of energy consenting and financial incentives, which are one of the main impediments to Wales moving forward with renewable energy.

The Committee's majority view supports the Welsh Government position that it should work with the UK Government to identify and secure an alternative developer to take forward proposals for a new nuclear reactor at Wylfa B in Anglesey. The NFLA disagrees with this view, as it has consistently argued:

- The economics of new nuclear build does not stack up. Financial and energy policy experts have concluded that there are significant financial risks in developing new nuclear power stations (4). The decision of RWE Npower and E-on to withdraw from developing a new site at Wylfa was partially due to such financial risks (5).
- There are important health and safety issues with nuclear new build, exemplified further since the Fukushima disaster. As the NFLA has recently noted, 31 out of 32 key nuclear safety issues in the approval of new nuclear reactor designs have yet to be rectified (6).
- There is still no solution to the problem of radioactive waste. New build at a Wylfa B may necessitate new radioactive waste which could remain on the site for up to 160 years. It will also be burnt at a much higher temperature by new reactors and so contain greater levels of radioactivity and public safety risk.

NFLA Chair Councillor Brian Goodall said:

"I am pleased that the Welsh Assembly's energy inquiry has been so categorical in its firm support for Wales developing a wide renewable energy mix. Wales needs to catch up to the impressive rates produced by Scotland and this report gives them some of the tools to do that. However, the Committee should have come out and opposed the development of new nuclear build at Wylfa. Following the recent collapse of the Horizon nuclear consortium there was a fantastic and timely opportunity for the Committee to advocate a non-nuclear solution for the future energy needs of Wales. I believe Wales should be following the examples of Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland and seeking a nuclear free, renewable rich future."

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES**



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**Further information –**

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**Notes to editors:**

- (1) National Assembly for Wales Environment & Sustainability Committee, 'Energy Policy and Planning in Wales', June 2012.  
<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/documents/s8778/Energy%20Policy%20and%20Planning%20in%20Wales%20-%20June%202012.pdf>
- (2) Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) submission to the Welsh Assembly energy inquiry, September 2011.  
[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/consultations/NFLA\\_Welsh\\_Assembly\\_energy\\_inquiry\\_submission.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/consultations/NFLA_Welsh_Assembly_energy_inquiry_submission.pdf)
- (3) NFLA Media Release, 'NFLA Welsh Forum Chair addresses Welsh Assembly energy inquiry', March 27<sup>th</sup> 2012.  
[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/NFLA\\_PR\\_Welsh\\_Assembly.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/NFLA_PR_Welsh_Assembly.pdf)
- (4) See for example, Reuters, 'UK nuclear build requires taxpayer rescue – Citibank', May 8<sup>th</sup> 2012.  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/08/nuclear-britain-edf-idUSL5E8G8FQ620120508>
- (5) E-On Media Release on Horizon Nuclear Consortium, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012.  
<http://pressreleases.eon-uk.com/blogs//eonukpressreleases/archive/2012/03/29/1802.aspx>
- (6) NFLA / Stop Hinkley Joint Media Release, 'Independent review highlights 30 safety issues delaying regulatory approval for EDF's French nuclear reactor design, June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.  
[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/NFLA\\_GDA\\_problems\\_report.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/NFLA_GDA_problems_report.pdf)

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