



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 30th January 2013

NFLA welcomes decision of Cumbria County Council to say no to developing a deep underground radioactive waste repository; now is the time for a complete overhaul of UK nuclear policy

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) welcomes Cumbria County Council's courageous and sensible decision not to go forward with the process to find a site for a deep underground nuclear waste repository. It also welcomes the UK Government's response to re-open the process, but argues that now is the time for a complete review of UK nuclear policy.

Cumbria County Council's Cabinet voted 7 – 3 not to go ahead with the process (1). The vote follows a concerted and passionate campaign by local and national groups including the NFLA to argue that Cumbria is not a suitable location for such a facility and that alternative policy options should be considered instead (2).

Given that the Prime Minister David Cameron has previously said that new nuclear build cannot go ahead until a long-term solution for nuclear waste management is found (3), the NFLA also calls on the UK Government to postpone its current negotiations with EDF over a substantial indirect subsidy for a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point. It is also time to review wider UK Government policy on developing new nuclear power stations.

NFLA Chair Mark Hackett said:

"Cumbria County Council's decision not to go ahead with consideration of a deep underground radioactive waste repository in Cumbria is very much to be welcomed given the huge pressure being put on it from central government, trade unions and the nuclear industry. I believe it to a pivotal turning point in the debate over new nuclear power stations as well. Now is the time to sit down and completely reconsider both our long-term radioactive waste management strategy and nuclear power's role in a future energy mix. I believe the time has come to significantly change both policies and listen to those who advocate a nuclear free future for the UK over the next few decades."

Ends

Further information - Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary - 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930186.

Notes to editors:

- (1) BBC Online, 30th January <http://bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cumbria-21253673>
- (2) NFLA Media Release, 21st January 2013
http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/NFLA_Cumbrian_Councils_Repository_decision.pdf
- (3) Interview with David Cameron on nuclear policy, clip issued by Greenpeace UK, 30th January 2013 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnycGD-7SFo&feature=youtu.be>

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES