



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 21st February 2012

NFLA contacts Parliamentary Select Committee Chairs to call for reappraisal of National Policy Statements on new nuclear power

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) Chair Councillor Brian Goodall has written today to the Chairs of the UK Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee, Joan Walley MP, and the Public Administration Committee, Bernard Jenkin MP; to consider a new report that questions the information provided to Parliament when approving two of the National Policy Energy Statements (1).

The letters follow consideration of the detailed report by the groups Association for the Conservation of Energy and Unlock Democracy entitled 'A Corruption of Governance', which was recently published in a cross-party Parliamentary meeting in the House of Commons Committee Rooms (2).

The NFLA Chair agrees with the central points of the report that the evidence provided in the National Policy Statements on Nuclear Power Generation (EN1 and EN-6) may have misrepresented the energy facts to Parliament, omitted key information and led to an uninformed decision by MPs when voting on the matter in mid 2011.

The report also states that the UK does not need any more nuclear power stations 'to keep the lights on', as is so often stated, and that nuclear power is not the most cost effective form of electricity generation. The NFLA has made such a case in a series of detailed energy policy briefings for England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland that can be found on the NFLA website (3).

The NFLA concludes both letters by asking the Select Committee Chairs to consider the report in more detail and take appropriate measures in their remit to ask for this matter to be fully reviewed and reconsidered by the UK Government and the UK Parliament.

NFLA Chair Councillor Brian Goodall said:

"I have always felt that the UK Government's Nuclear Policy Statement on Nuclear Power did not give MPs a fair representation of all the information that Parliament required to decide dispassionately on whether there should be a new nuclear build programme. The excellent joint ACE/Unlock Democracy report raises significant issues that need to be further considered by Parliament. I hope Joan Walley and Bernard Jenkin can put this report to their committees for urgent consideration in order for the UK Parliament to reappraise the decision made on new nuclear build."

Ends

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

Notes to editors:

- (1) The letters were sent by the NFLA Chair to the Chairs of the Environmental Audit Committee and the Public Administration Committee on the 20th February 2012.
- (2) The report 'A Corruption of Governance', published late January 2012 by the Association for the Conservation of Energy and Unlock Democracy can be downloaded from:
[http://www.ukace.org/publications/ACE%20Campaigns%20\(2012-01\)%20-%20Corruption%20of%20Governance%20-%20Jan%202012](http://www.ukace.org/publications/ACE%20Campaigns%20(2012-01)%20-%20Corruption%20of%20Governance%20-%20Jan%202012) .
- (3) Go to <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info> for further information on NFLA assessments of national energy policy in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES