



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

MEDIA ADVISORY – for immediate release, 23rd November 2011

- **Northern Ireland Minister Alex Attwood speaking at NFLA meeting**
- **Seminar considering nuclear new build, renewable energy and the future for energy policy in the British and Irish Isles**

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) welcomes the Northern Ireland Environment Minister Alex Attwood MLA as its keynote speaker to its Annual Policy Briefing Seminar which this year takes place in Newry, Northern Ireland (1).

Alex Attwood has been asked to talk to the NFLA about concerns over new nuclear reactors in England and Wales and the potential impacts on the Irish Sea and to the island of Ireland of such development. He has also been asked to talk about how he sees the future direction of energy policy and the potential for co-operation with the UK Government and the Republic of Ireland Government on the promotion of offshore wind power.

In an excellent high-quality speaker panel, other presentations will be provided by:

- Grattan Healy, a board member of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and founder member of the National Offshore Wind Association of Ireland;
- James Orr, the Director of Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland;
- Rick Nickerson, Policy Advisor for KIMO International, an influential local authority marine pollution organisation. It's most recent report has charted all the recent radioactive material shipments taking place in Northern Europe.

The seminar has been opened out to all Councils in Ireland to allow interaction with councillors and council officers in England, Scotland and Wales who share concerns over the development of new nuclear reactors. It will also allow discussion of the positive role Councils can play in the development of renewable energy and energy demand management alternatives.

The seminar will directly follow on from a NFLA Steering Committee meeting and the NFLA's Annual General Meeting, at which a new Chairperson will be elected.

NFLA All Ireland Forum Co-Chair and Newry & Mourne District Councillor Michael Carr said:
"I am delighted to welcome councillors from across Britain and Ireland to Newry to consider nuclear developments and the future direction of energy policy for the two islands. As a Newry & Mourne Councillor I remain concerned about the potential development of new nuclear reactors, radioactive waste and reprocessing facilities just across the Irish Sea from us, and what effect they may have on the marine environment. As I hear of increased radioactive levels found on the approaches to the low level radioactive waste site near Sellafield, and hear of the potentially worrying development of a new plutonium reprocessing facility on the Sellafield site, I know our membership of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities gives opportunity to raise our legitimate concerns and promote more sustainable and cost effective alternatives." (2)

Ends

For further information and photo / interview opportunities contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 00 44 (0)7771 930196 or Sinead Trainor, Newry and Mourne Council on 00 44 (0)2830 313100.

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Notes for editors:

- (1) The NFLA Annual Policy Briefing Seminar is on Friday November 25th in the Council Chamber of Newry and Mourne District Council offices. Details are as follows:

Nuclear policy developments and the real potential for renewable energy in the British and Irish Isles

Newry & Mourne District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry, BT35 8DJ.

12.45pm

Registration

1.00pm

Welcome: Councillor Michael Carr, Newry & Mourne Council.

1.05pm

Alex Attwood MLA, Environment Minister, Northern Ireland Government – UK new nuclear build and the future development of energy policy in Northern Ireland.

1.30pm

Grattan Healy, Board Member of the Strategic Energy Authority of Ireland and co-founder of the National Offshore Wind Association of Ireland – The potential for offshore wind power around the British and Irish Isles.

1.55pm

James Orr, Director of Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland – Irish Green Groups 'Vision for a Programme for Government' in energy and environmental policy.

2.15pm

Rick Nickerson, Policy Advisor, KIMO International – The Transport of Nuclear Materials by Sea in Northern Europe.

2.40pm

Panel discussion led by the new NFLA Chair.

3.00pm

Conclusion, seminar ends.

- (2) See the CORE press release. This outlines that some road drains located on the main approach road to the village centre (Drigg Road) of the Low Level Radioactive Waste Repository in Drigg, near Sellafield, Cumbria, have shown a significant rise in levels of Caesium-137 (Cs-137) and Americium 241 (Am-241) in 2010 compared to previous years.

<http://www.corecumbria.co.uk/newsapp/pressreleases/pressmina.asp?StrNewsID=295>

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