Hinkley state aid – more criticism

Following the NFLA / CNFE / Stop Hinkley submission to the European Commission, calling for it to reject the UK’s ‘strike price’ deal with EDF for new nuclear build at Hinkley Point; a host of other influential critiques have been submitted.

The cross-party UK Parliament Environment Audit Committee has submitted deep concerns it has over the proposed financing of the UK Government deal.

NFLA supports a major response of over 100 academics, MPs, MEPs and energy industry leaders focused on the market distortions of the deal and its negative impact on renewable energy development.

A joint response of 10 leading European energy policy economists also questioned the huge subsidies being offered to the programme.

A NFLA media release on these responses and the NFLA / CNFE / Stop Hinkley submission are on the NFLA website.

Mayors for Peace reaches 6000 member milestone

On the 1st April 2014, the Mayors for Peace organisation, to which NFLA works with and is strongly supportive of, reached the milestone of 6,000 members in 157 countries.

This effectively means that the organisation represents well over 1 billion people. Some of the 56 of its newest members come from Iran, showing how Mayors for Peace are trying to show the importance of local government to the nuclear weapons issue across the world.

Mayors for Peace will be led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the UN Preparatory Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty in early May.

Mayors for Peace will also be taking part in a major NGO conference in Sarajevo in early June for the centenary of the First World War.

As a Vice President of the Mayors for Peace, Manchester will be present at the Sarajevo meetings. NFLA warmly congratulates Mayors for Peace on reaching 6,000 members.
NFLA media releases April 2014:
(On NFLA website.)

- NFLA concern over Drigg climate change report
- NFLA All Ireland meeting on renewables, shale gas and nuclear concerns
- NFLA welcomes other responses to EC’s Hinkley Point consultation
- NFLA congratulates Mayors for Peace in reaching the milestone of 6000 members

NFLA POLICY BRIEFINGS IN DEVELOPMENT

With local and European elections in May there are no NFLA meetings until late June 2014.

This allows time for the Secretariat to develop a number of NFLA policy briefings on:
- Local authority Energy Service Companies;
- Nuclear emergency planning;
- Co-operation with, and development of, Mayors for Peace;
- Contaminated scrap metals.

NFLA Scotland supports Walk for Peace and Bike for Peace

NFLA Scotland held its latest meeting in Clydebank Town Hall and discussed relevant issues of nuclear policy.

There was considerable discussion on the Dalgety Bay issue, the Dounreay Vulcain radiation leak, submarine dismantling, & nuclear policy and the Scottish independence referendum.

A report was provided by CND Scotland of their March ‘Walk for Peace’, which went from Edinburgh to Faslane. It included a major public rally in Glasgow. The events had strong support from NFLA Scotland members on the route.

NFLA Scotland also pledged to support the Scottish leg of the ‘Bike for Peace’ 2014 world tour. This will go from Aberdeen to Edinburgh from July 25th – 30th and will include stops in Dundee, Faslane and Glasgow. Further details on this tour will follow.

NFLA All Ireland Forum looks at key Irish energy matters

The NFLA All Ireland Forum held a business meeting and seminar in Newry & Mourne Council Offices in early April.

The business meeting discussed the key nuclear / energy issues the Forum wanted to pursue and the impact of major local government reorganisation across the island of Ireland.

The seminar considered three main issues of concern in Ireland. Matt Kennedy of SEAI looked at the renewable energy potential that exists in Ireland and how it can be realised with public support.

Declan Allison of Friends of the Earth NI provided a cogent analysis of concerns around the development of shale gas in Ireland. NFLA Secretary Sean Morris outlined a number of nuclear policy concerns impacting on Ireland which the NFLA were involved with. The presentations will go on the website.

NFLA attends submarine dismantling ILW workshop

The NFLA Chair & NFLA Secretary attended a Ministry of Defence stakeholder workshop looking at the issues around the storage of intermediate level radioactive waste from dismantled submarines.

The Penrith meeting had reps from 3 of the 5 nominated ILW sites – Sellafield, Chapelcross and Capenhurst (the other sites being Aldermaston & Burghfield).

The workshop aided greater thinking on the issue. The shortlist will be further considered with a public consultation later this year.
NFLA provides model responses to key radwaste reports

The NFLA Secretariat has developed three radioactive waste policy briefings in April to assist its members with key consultations.

The first provided a model response on the request for consent to the initial dismantling of seven nuclear powered submarines at the Rosyth site in Fife.

The second involves responding to the UK & devolved Governments strategy on dealing with natural occurring radioactive materials – NORM. This also has a potential impact with shale gas regulation.

The third considers the management of nuclear fuels held in the UK of overseas origin. This also involves the operation of the Sellafield Thorp facility.

The NFLA is formally responding to all three consultations. The NFLA Policy Briefings can be found on the NFLA website.

Other news in brief

Nuclear EP talks: The NFLA Secretary and other NGO reps met DECC and nuclear regulators for a discussion on UK nuclear emergency planning policy. The useful dialogue is a DECC NGO Forum sub-group and an important way to influence policy in this area.

ONR NGO Forum: The NFLA Secretary also attended a meeting of the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) Forum with NGOs. The ONR is now a fully independent agency. The meeting focused on emergency planning and waste issues. It is a valuable interface challenging the role of the regulators.

The 28th Chernobyl anniversary remembered: April 26th was the 28th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. A number of events were held around the world. Many media stories compared the disaster with ongoing problems in Fukushima. NFLA remembers all those affected by Chernobyl.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

NPT PrepCon (includes Mayors for Peace / NGOs presentation), UN, New York, 30th April

NFLA Steering Committee and tour of NFLA’s restored archive, Manchester Town Hall Extension / Manchester Central Library, 27th June

Bike for Peace in Scotland, Aberdeen to Edinburgh, 25th – 30th July

NFLA letters to media, April 2014: (emailed to members)

- Well done Hull! Now its time to create more green jobs
- It’s time to overhaul the nuclear openness & transparency regime

NFLA member Councillor Lawrence O’Neill signs open letter to MOD at civic reception to Walk for Peace in Dumbarton Town Hall (Source: CND Scotland)

The Walk for Peace walkers preparing for its walk and major public rally to George Square, Glasgow (Source: CND Scotland)

Glasgow councillors and MSP’s at the city centre ‘Walk for Peace’ rally (Source: CND Scotland)