Minister responds on new build

The Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne has responded to the NFLA around its concerns over new nuclear build.

The NFLA sought clarification of the new Government’s position on nuclear power and requested a public inquiry over the ‘justification’ decision for new nuclear reactors.

The response noted that the Government was analysing responses to its consultation on facilitating new reactors which it believes should be built, though ‘without public subsidy’. A final decision on the justification of new reactors was still being considered.

Hiroshima - Nagasaki A-bombs 65th anniversary

Across the world, and in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, moving ceremonies were held to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the atomic bombings in August 1945.

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon and representatives from the US, UK and French Governments attended the Hiroshima Peace ceremony for the first time.

Similar ceremonies were held across the world and in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. A formal NFLA / Mayors for Peace ceremony was held in Manchester and led by the Lord Mayor.

Other ceremonies were also held in cities as diverse as Leeds, Bradford, Liverpool, London, Glasgow, Sheffield, Dundee, Coventry, Edinburgh, Paisley, Knock, Blaenau Gwent, Oxford, Birmingham and Milton Keynes.

See the Mayors for Peace website for further details.
Fire incident at Aldermaston nuclear weapons facility

The NFLA has written to the Health and Safety Executive raising its concerns over a serious fire incident at the Aldermaston nuclear weapons facility in West Berkshire.

The fire started in a concrete bunker on the evening of the 2nd August in a non-nuclear explosives area.

One member of staff was injured and a 600m cordon was in place until 11am the following day.

The HSE are investigating the incident and the NFLA have written to them asking for an open and transparent inquiry into the incident.

The Reading Evening Post published a letter of concern from the NFLA Chair.

The NFLA will monitor the outcome of this incident and other developments closely.

Dounreay workers contaminated in radiation leak

The NFLA is writing to safety authorities after a radiation leak at Dounreay’s nuclear reactor contaminated nine of its workers.

The staff were moving a flask containing intermediate level waste to storage when they were exposed to ‘higher than expected’ doses of radiation, though within statutory limits.

The incident follows a serious fire at the plant in late May. The HSE’s Nuclear Installations Inspectorate are investigating both incidents.

The NFLA are writing to both the NII and the Dounreay site to ascertain safety levels at the site and why 2 serious incidents have occurred in the last 3 months.

NFLA Scotland will consider the incident at its September meeting.

Mayor of Halabja to attend NFLA’s 30th anniversary events

The Mayor of Halabja will lead a delegation to attend the NFLA’s 30th anniversary and the Mayors for Peace board meeting in Manchester this November.

Halabja was the scene of a chemical weapon attack by the Saddam Hussein regime which killed 5000 people. It is a Mayors for Peace Executive city.

The Mayor will join with the Mayors of Nagasaki, Ypres, Granollers, Florence, Hanover and Malakoff at the November events, with a full programme being organised by the NFLA and Mayors for Peace.
NFLA hold seminars in all 4 national Forums

The NFLA Secretariat has organised autumn / winter seminars for all four NFLA national forums.

NFLA Scotland will be having a full discussion on the 2011 Scottish Parliamentary elections at their meeting in Glasgow on 10th Sept.

NFLA England is holding an important seminar on nuclear emergency planning issues in Manchester on 17th September.

The NFLA All-Ireland Forum will be holding an interesting seminar on the OSPAR Commission and radioactive discharges in Fingal on 22nd October.

And NFLA Wales will be holding an inquiry into the need for nuclear power in Wales in Ceredigion on 25th November.

Full details are on the NFLA website.

Letters to the press in August 2010:

All are on the NFLA website.

- New nuclear build – predictable delays require a renewable alternative
- New nuclear does not need to be part of the energy mix
- Can we really afford to wait for new nuclear?

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Full details are on the NFLA website.

Other news in brief

NFLA briefings on EA new build design and EA environmental regulations – these briefings are being prepared for Councils to respond to both important consultations.

Mayor of Hiroshima awarded Asian peace prize – the Mayor of Hiroshima has been awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award, the Asian equivalent of the Nobel peace prize for his work on the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear shipments operator seeks meeting with NFLA – the owners of the ships that regularly transport radioactive waste across the Irish Sea have asked to meet the NFLA to discuss its concerns.

Are Irish Sea radiation discharges ‘negligible’ on its population? The NFLA has written to SDLP leader Margaret Ritchie over official NI claims that sea discharges are now ‘negligible’.

Forthcoming meetings

UK Mayors for Peace WG / NFLA Scotland Forum – Glasgow, 10th September.

NFLA Steering C’tte – Manchester, 17th September.


NFLA All Ireland Forum – Swords, Fingal, 22nd October.

NFLA SC, Nagasaki civic visit, NFLA 30th anniversary event & Mayors for Peace meeting, 4/5 Nov.

NFLA Wales Forum – Aberystwyth, 25th November.