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Website Links:

NFLA: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
Mayors for Peace: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
2020 Vision: <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>
KIMO: <http://www.kimointernational.org>
ICAN-UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>



Speakers at the NFLA Steering Committee's Fukushima seminar in Manchester Town Hall

Cumbria says 'no' to repository

At a meeting of its full Cabinet on the 30th January, councillors in Cumbria County Council decided not to move to the next stage of the process to find a suitable site for a deep underground radioactive waste repository.

The 7 – 3 vote against moving forward was decided upon due to

concerns over the lack of suitable geology to host such a repository. The campaign by local groups opposed to the idea and the proximity of the Lake District National Park were other key factors in this decision.

The UK Government have said they will now re-open the process to see if other Councils will

consider hosting such a repository, which is likely to take some time.

The NFLA has welcomed Cumbria's decision and, in a media release, argued that it was now time to reconsider both UK nuclear waste and nuclear new build policy. A copy of the media release can be found on the NFLA website.

NFLA Fukushima seminar – an eyewitness view

The NFLA Steering Committee held an informative seminar hearing from three speakers who lived near the Fukushima reactor in March 2011.

Geoff Read, his partner Mitsuko Sonoda and Takafumi Honda gave an account of their personal experience of the nuclear incident, evacuation, the post

evacuation & continuing health issues arising from the Fukushima.

Their combined accounts showed the need for a much greater level of radiation monitoring in the area, the real problems of evacuation and decontamination, and the worries of the local community of health risks to their children in the area.

They also argued that these issues had direct impacts on the UK situation and changes to emergency plans, health monitoring and openness and wider transparency are very much needed.

The information from the seminar will be developed into a NFLA Policy Briefing.

NFLA media releases
January 2013:
(On NFLA website.)

- NFLA welcomes Cumbrian 'no' to deep waste repository
- NFLA publish report on concerns over shale gas
- Development of a deep underground waste repository – why Cumbrian Councils should postpone decision or say 'no' to moving forward with it
- New Sizewell emergency plan – how is a 2.3 mile evacuation zone better than a 1.5 mile zone?

WESTMINSTER SEMINAR

The NFLA attended a major NCG Westminster seminar considering the case for new build.

Speakers from DECC, EDF and the Nuclear Consulting Group outlined the key issues for and against new nuclear build.

A follow-up seminar in March will consider Germany's move away from nuclear power. The NFLA welcome these seminars for providing high profile debate on such issues.

NFLA responds to Sizewell emergency plan changes

The NFLA Secretariat has issued a media release and is planning to respond to the local consultation over the proposed changes to the offsite emergency plan for the Sizewell nuclear site.

The draft Sizewell plan includes a slight increase in the detailed

emergency planning zone (DEPZ) around the site and increase public information to the wider area.

In the media release, the NFLA argue for a more comprehensive and holistic approach and argue the DEPZ should be considerably larger.

In reported comments to the local media, the Chief EPO for Suffolk County Council has responded by saying that the wider locality is informed of the plans which are available in local libraries. He also welcomed the NFLA's involvement in this process. See the NFLA website for more detail.

NFLA shale gas report raises major environmental concerns

The NFLA Secretariat has drafted a detailed report for Councils on the likely development in the UK and Ireland of shale gas fracking.

The report outlines a number of very serious environmental issues that are involved in developing such a practice. The report and

media release can be found on the NFLA website.

This is the first of a series of new policy briefings across a number of relevant areas of energy policy in the UK & Ireland.

These include an overview of the fuel

poverty issue and benefits of energy efficiency; an overview of the upcoming Green Deal; and a review of the potential for a number of renewable energy initiatives, such as biofuels, CHP, biomass & geothermal energy. NFLA members are encouraged to disseminate them.

Important NFLA Scotland meetings in Glasgow & Edinburgh

The NFLA Scotland Forum will be holding its AGM in Glasgow City Chambers on the 1st February. This meeting will elect a new Convener and consider its plans for 2013.

Plans are also underway to combine its April meeting with a special seminar linking in with the Abolition 2000 AGM in Edinburgh. Abolition 2000 is one of the main groups campaigning for

a nuclear weapons free world.

Edinburgh and Fife Councils are hosting the Hiroshima & Nagasaki A-bomb exhibition in February and March.

NFLA letters to the media, January 2013

(All emailed directly to NFLA members)

- Trident – Danny Alexander’s comments to be welcomed on the Alternatives Review
- Cuts to energy efficiency are illogical in a cold winter
- Energy subsidies – is the UK taxpayer about to pay through the nose for them?
- French inquiry means its time to redouble efforts on alternatives to new nuclear build
- EDF’s financial worries should see a move to an ‘Energy Plan B’

TORFAEN COUNCIL JOINS THE NFLA

The NFLA welcomes the decision by Torfaen Council to join it as an affiliated member.

This is the third new member of the NFLA in the past six months, following on from Galway City and Merthyr Tydfil Councils.

Other Councils are also considering joining the NFLA. Contact the NFLA Secretariat if you require further information.

Other National NFLA Forum seminars

Final discussions are taking place to hold NFLA National Forum meetings in England, Ireland and Wales over the next few months.

Following on from the January Fukushima seminar, the NFLA English Forum is planning a seminar considering the issues

around contaminated scrap metal and the transporting of nuclear materials.

The NFLA All Ireland Forum is following up an upcoming meeting with officials from the Irish Government with a seminar on the risks to Ireland of a new nuclear programme

across the Irish Sea.

The NFLA Welsh Forum is considering new energy developments in Wales, including carbon capture & storage, onshore wind, Wylfa B and renewables.

Further details on these seminars will follow shortly.

Mayors for Peace preparing for 3 important conferences

The Mayors for Peace are planning a presence at two United Nations Conferences on nuclear weapons, whilst also planning for their own Executive Conference in Hiroshima.

In early March a special conference hosted by Norway will consider the humanitarian conseq-

uences of nuclear weapons. The aim of the conference is to focus on what harm would be done to the planet in the event of a limited nuclear conflagration.

In May the second conference preparing for the 2015 Nuclear Non – Proliferation Treaty Review will take place in

Geneva.

In August Mayors for Peace will hold its Executive & General Conference to discuss its policy and structure.

A February UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace in Tower Hamlets will consider ways to develop the group in the British Isles.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

NFLA Scotland Forum, 1st February, Glasgow City Chambers.

Mayors for Peace Working Group, 18th February, Room MP 702, Town Hall, Tower Hamlets.

NFLA Steering Committee, 22nd March, Manchester Town Hall.

NFLA Scotland, 19th April, Edinburgh City Chambers.

Dates of NFLA English Forum, Welsh Forum and All Ireland Forum meetings will be provided shortly.