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NFLA Chair George Regan meets the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon at the NPT Review Conference. New York

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New government – new nuclear?

The UK general election brought about the first hung Parliament since 1974 and a new Conservative / Liberal Democrat government.

The professed Lib Dem nuclear sceptic Chris Huhne is the new Energy Minister with 3 Conservative deputies.

The new government's

coalition agreement allows for the Liberal Democrats to publicly oppose new nuclear build, but abstain on key votes. The deputy Energy Minister Charles Hendry will seek to bring forward a new build project without subsidy.

The agreement also plans for the abolition of the new Infrastructure

Planning Committee, but does not outline what replaces it.

The NFLA have written to Chris Huhne seeking clarification of this agreement and urging a meeting between the Government, the NFLA and other groups. The letter and press release are on the NFLA website.

Contents

New government	1
NPT Review Conference	1
Post NPT	2
European consultation	2
FDP consultation	2
LLR & Health Conference	2
June seminars	3
EP briefings	3
Media releases	3
Forthcoming meetings	3

The NFLA Chair and NFLA Secretary were part of a 240 strong Mayors for Peace (M4P) delegation at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT) Treaty Review Conference being held at the UN in New York.

The NFLA took a full part in the delegations work, being at the front of a major peace

rally (in co-operation with other peace groups) through New York.

At the Mayors for Peace Forum in the NPT the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon endorsed the work of Mayors for Peace & the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol for the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020.

The Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Board meeting celebrated its 4000th member and planned developments to increase to 5000 members or 1 billion people.

UN Ambassadors were lobbied and Mayors spoke to the NPT. Michael Douglas and Yoko Ono also spoke at a M4P reception.

25th anniversary Low Level Radiation and Health Conference, Friends Meeting House, Manchester, 19th and 20th June

Speakers include:
Prof Wolfgang Weiss gives the Alice Stewart Lecture on the German KIKK report on childhood cancers around nuclear reactors.

Radiation risks –
Carmel Motherskill, McMaster Uni, Canada

Alfred Koerblein, Env'I Institute, Munich

Eric Wright, Dundee University

Richard Wakeford, Manchester University

Workshops –
John Urquhart, Open University on very low level radiation

Tracey Morris, St Andrew's University on nuclear test veterans

Managing radioactive waste –

Rachel Western on the geological waste repository

Peter Diehl, WISE on UK Uranium Supplies

Email:
Janine@core.furness.co.uk to register.
Phone Jill Sutcliffe on 01403 700395 for further details.

Post NPT – what next? Peace Boat and Nagasaki exhibition

At the time of going to press, the result of the NPT Review Conference was not known though a positive outcome was being suggested.

Whatever the result of the NPT, the NFLA are co-operating with the Mayors for Peace to continue to seek to expand membership of

both organisations in the UK and Ireland.

The Mayors for Peace are co-operating with the 'Peace Boat' organization to hold a post-NPT event. The Peace Boat is travelling from Bergen to Dublin, arriving in Ireland on June 14th and hopefully meeting NFLA and Irish

politicians.

Meanwhile work is ongoing for the Mayor of Nagasaki's visit to Manchester. An A-bomb exhibition will be held in the People's History Museum from November 4th – 28th and NFLA 30th anniversary events on the 4th and 5th – further details to follow.

NFLA respond to European radioactive waste consultation

The NFLA Secretariat has provided a Radioactive Waste Briefing and responded in full to a European Commission survey on waste management strategies.

The EU consultation is seeking opinion on whether the Commission should seek a general standardised

approach to the storage of radioactive waste.

Though welcoming the consultation, the NFLA are concerned about developing a 'one size fits all' strategy and imposing inappropriate solutions to member states.

The NFLA has written to the Scottish

Government to see if the European consultation creates issues for its own draft policy.

NFLA staff are attending a Committee on Radioactive Waste Management meeting in June to discuss wider waste issues with it.

NFLA respond to funded decommissioning costs consultation

The NFLA Secretariat has also provided NFLA members with a 'New Nuclear Monitor' to provide an overview and suggested responses to the UK Government's

consultation on a funded decommissioning programme for new nuclear reactors.

The consultation is part of the actions to enable new nuclear build to

occur. The NFLA are concerned that the taxpayer may end up footing the bill for waste and decommissioning and has written to Chris Huhne with these concerns.



Actor Michael Douglas speaks at Mayors for Peace reception



Delivering 7 million petition signatures to UN NPT Conference Chair in UN General Assembly

**NFLA media releases in May 2010:
All are on the NFLA website.**

- NFLA urge new Government to withdraw nuclear finance consultation
- NFLA Scotland seeks clarification from new Minister on Trident replacement
- NFLA concerned over emergency planning gaps with sea and road nuclear transports



Peace flag flying over Oxford Town Hall for the NPT Review Conference



Mayors for Peace rally through New York to the UN building

NFLA Wales / Scotland seminars in June

The NFLA Wales and NFLA Scotland Forums will be holding important seminars in June on nuclear new build and radioactive waste issues.

NFLA Wales is holding a seminar on the 4th June in Caernarfon, Gwynedd. It will

consider if a new reactor should be built at Wylfa in Anglesey.

Dylan Morgan from PAWB, Neil Crumpton from Bellona UK, Gerry Wolff from Energy Fair and the NFLA Secretary are amongst the speakers.

NFLA Scotland is

holding a business meeting and seminar on the 18th June in Livingston. The seminar will look at Scottish radioactive waste policy with Brian Clark (CoRWM), Ian Fairlie (SCCORS) and Pete Roche (NFLA) speaking. Contact the NFLA Secretariat to register for either event.

NFLA uncover emergency planning gaps with waste transport

The NFLA are publishing two briefings on nuclear materials transportation which suggest concerns on potential emergency planning gaps.

A briefing has been produced on the safety of radioactive material shipments travelling through the Irish Sea. This comes out of

correspondence with UK and Irish coastguard agencies and uncovers a lack of clarity on who controls an emergency at sea with such a shipment. It also uncovers a lack of specific emergency planning exercises in this area.

The second briefing covers the transport of

nuclear weapons by road. This finds a general lack of knowledge, training and exercises from Council Emergency Planning Units if a convoy was involved in a major incident.

The NFLA is writing to the Governments on this. See the website.

Forthcoming meetings

NFLA Welsh Forum – Celtic Park Hotel, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, 4th June.

Peace Boat arrives for post NPT event, Dublin, 14th June.

NFLA Scotland – Howden Park Centre and Civic Centre, Livingston, West Lothian, 18th June.

NFLA Steering Committee meeting – Manchester, 25th June

Low Level Radiation & Health Conference (in association with NFLA) – Friends Meeting House, Manchester, 19th June (SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE DETAILS).