NFLA submits views on nuclear subs

The NFLA Secretariat has submitted its official response to the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) over strategies to dismantle redundant nuclear submarines.

It reiterated its view that no new submarines should be built. It argued that dismantling issue have to be dealt with but not rushed to allow more time for radioactive decay of the subs. The NFLA believe the storing of the intact reactor compartments above ground in safe and secure locations at Rosyth and Devonport appears to be the best option. However, the built-up nature of both bases means further local discussions on storage are required.

The NFLA briefing can be found on its website.

Trident replacement, Dalgety Bay and Dounreay debated

The NFLA Scotland Forum held a business meeting, AGM and special seminar in Paisley on the 10th February.

The meeting agreed to elect Councillor Audrey Doig as its Convenor until the all-out elections in May. It was agreed to also go ahead with a meeting with the Scottish Government in mid March on waste issues.

At the seminar, Bill Kidd MSP explained the dynamics of the Trident debate in Scotland, whilst CND Scotland’s John Ainslie gave a detailed overview of its report Trident: Nowhere to go? This report notes there are no realistic alternatives to the Faslane Trident base.

NFLA Scotland’s Pete Roche gave an overview of concerns with Dalgety Bay contamination and Dounreay nuclear material rail transports. Local Dalgety Bay activist Helen Todd also provided a passionate local perspective.

Presentations can be found on the NFLA website.
NFLA English Forum looks at health, waste and EP

The NFLA English Forum held a well attended seminar in Leeds Civic Hall on a number of relevant nuclear issues.

Dr Ian Fairlie provided an overview of an official French ‘INSERM’ report which again brings forward research of a possible link between increased childhood cancers and proximity to nuclear power plants.

Waste consultant Jean McSorley highlighted the local debate taking place in Cumbria over whether local Councils should express an interest in developing a deep-underground radio-active waste facility.

The seminar concluded with an overview of the main issues around the UK nuclear emergency planning review from the NFLA Secretary Sean Morris.

The presentations from the seminar are on the NFLA website.

NFLA Welsh Forum to host cross-party panel on energy

The NFLA Welsh Forum is holding a cross-party political panel to consider the future direction of Welsh energy policy.

The meeting takes place in Cardiff County Hall and confirmed panelists include Plaid Cymru MEP Jill Evans, Lib Dem AM Eluned Parrott and former Welsh Green Party Leader Jake Griffiths. Senior figures from Labour and Conservative parties have also been invited.

The panel will consider the key questions posed by the Welsh Assembly energy inquiry, which is currently looking at all elements of energy policy.

The NFLA Secretary will also be providing an update of its submission to the Environment Agency on Hinkley Point proposed discharges and the IPC planning inquiry for new nuclear reactors at Hinkley.

NFLA members and groups are encouraged to attend the seminar.

Northern Ireland Minister raises nuclear new build concerns

The Northern Ireland Environment Minister Alex Attwood has written to the NFLA to note that he has raised his concerns over a UK proposed new nuclear build programme with the UK Energy Minister.

The NFLA All Ireland Chairs have asked the Republic’s Government to do likewise and have had a letter published in the Irish Independent on the matter.

The next NFLA All Ireland Forum meeting will be held in Dundalk on the 20th April – further details will follow shortly.
NFLA prepares for Hinkley Point planning inquiry

The Infra-structure Planning Commission (IPC) has confirmed that the NFLA is a registered party to the forthcoming inquiry into a new nuclear reactor at Hinkley Point.

The NFLA Secretariat is liaising with local groups on co-operating where practical to do so. Over 1100 individuals and groups have registered an interest.

Local media has reported that a dispute has occurred between the local Council and EDF over paying for proper scrutiny of the impact report from the building of new reactors on the site.

Meanwhile, the local anti-nuclear pressure group South West against Nuclear (SWAN) has announced it has occupied a part of the proposed Hinkley site.

Manchester to host Mayors for Peace Working Group

The Mayors for Peace Vice President City Manchester will host the next meeting of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group on the 29th March.

The meeting will discuss the future development of the organisation nationally and internationally. In January, the UK Mayors for Peace WG Secretary attended a special meeting considering how to improve the structure, finance and general administration of the 5,126 member group.

A full report will be discussed at the next Mayors for Peace board meeting on May 6th, around the UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference taking place in Vienna. A seminar on nuclear power is also planned for the meeting.

Voluntary invoices and recruitment letters are also being issued by the Manchester Secretariat. See the Mayors for Peace website for further details on its activity.

Forthcoming NFLA meetings (see the NFLA website)

**NFLA Welsh Forum, 2nd March, County Hall, Cardiff.**

**UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group, 29th March, Manchester Town Hall.**

**NFLA Steering Committee and NFLA Finance & Admin Committee meeting, 30th March, Manchester Town Hall.**

**NFLA All Irelad Forum, 20th April, Dundalk Town Hall.**

Mayors for Peace board meeting and a delegation to the NPT, Vienna, 2nd – 6th May.