News from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities

NFLA Newsletter


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Contents:
Fukushima remembered 1
Radioactive waste repository 1
Welsh developments 2
Scottish Government 2
NFLA Ireland seminar 2
NFLA media releases 2
Upcoming public meetings 3
Mayors for Peace meeting 3
Letters to the media 3
Forthcoming meetings 3

Remembering Fukushima 1 Year On

In a media release, the NFLA remembered all the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan of March 11th 2011. It also raised its concerns over the longer-term health, environmental, food safety and marine issues arising from the Fukushima radiation leaks in the worst nuclear incident since the Chernobyl disaster.

Large public demonstrations to remember Fukushima and raise concerns over new developments in nuclear power were held around the world - 45,000 in Japan and as much as 60,000 in France.

In the UK a national demonstration was held outside the Hinkley Point site. On the 21st March the IPC - Infrastructure Planning Commission started its deliberation of the planning inquiry for a new reactor at Hinkley Point. Over 2000 attended its first meeting. The NFLA will respond to this inquiry.

The media release is on the NFLA website.

NFLA urges Cumbrian Councils to end interest in repository

NFLA have submitted a detailed response to the West Cumbria public consultation on whether it should go ahead with the next stage of the process to host an underground radioactive waste repository.

In its submission the NFLA argue the three Cumbrian Councils should not go any further with this process, given the major technical and scientific uncertainties that exist in developing such a site.

The NFLA is also greatly concerned that the geology of Cumbria is not suitable for an underground repository.

12 Cumbrian Parish and Town Councils have formally raised their own opposition to going ahead with the process. MRWS members from South Lakeland Council and Cumbria Churches Together have also urged a halt to the process.

The NFLA submission and media release can be found on the NFLA website. The BBC interviewed NFLA staff over its submission.
NFLA addresses Welsh Assembly as RWE / E-on pull out

The NFLA Welsh Forum was invited to address the Welsh Assembly’s Environment Committee inquiry into Welsh energy policy. The Forum held a cross-party panel discussion in Cardiff on Welsh energy policy which found wide support for the NFLA’s policy.

The recent decision of the Welsh Government to support a new reactor at Wylfa has been overtaken by RWE and E-on pulling out of investing in such a reactor. It is now quite uncertain if new reactors at Wylfa and Oldbury can go ahead.

The NFLA’s letter to the Welsh First Minister and its media release on the RWE / E-on decision is on the NFLA website.

NFLA meets with Scottish Government rad-waste officials

The NFLA Chair, NFLA Scotland Chair and the NFLA Secretary met officials from the Scottish Government to discuss various radioactive waste matters.

On the agenda was a discussion on progress with Scottish Higher Activity Waste policy and an offer for NFLA to be involved in further detailed discussion on it.

The meeting also discussed concerns over rail transport of nuclear waste from Dounreay to Sellafield and the clean-up of the Dounreay site.

A discussion on Dalgety Bay contamination led to a shared hope that the MOD plan for clean-up is robustly delivered.

Progress with the dismantling of nuclear submarines was also considered. The NFLA welcomed the meeting in clarifying Scottish policy on these important radioactive waste issues.

NFLA Irish Forum considers Sustainable Energy Communities

The NFLA All Ireland Forum will be holding its spring seminar in Dundalk Town Hall on the 20th April.

An invitation for the Irish Energy Minister to speak has been made. A confirmed speaker from the Sustainable Energy Authority will talk about how Councils can develop Sustainable Energy Communities.

An overview of UK nuclear developments and concerns will be provided to delegates. The flyer has been sent to all Irish councillors and is on the NFLA website.
NFLA NEWSLETTER 3

NFLA supporting upcoming nuclear power public meetings

The NFLA is supporting two important meetings in April and June on challenging the future development of nuclear power.

On the evening of April 26th, the anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, a public meeting ‘What future for Nuclear? is being held in the Friends Meeting House in Manchester.

Speakers include former CERRIE member and NCG Co-ordinator Paul Dorfman, founder of the first children’s hospice in Belarus Anna Gorchakova and Mike Koefman of the group Campaign for a Hydrogen Economy. All are welcome for this 7pm meeting.

Planning has also got underway for a national campaigners conference on opposing new nuclear build on the 30th June. Workshops and overseas activists are being developed and recruited. Information will follow next month.

Manchester hosts Mayors for Peace & NFLA meetings

The Lord Mayor of Manchester hosted a meeting of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group on the 29th March.

The meeting discussed the future development of the organisation nationally and internationally.

Voluntary invoices and recruitment letters have also been issued by the Manchester Secretariat.

UK Mayors for Peace and NFLA members have been invited to join an international delegation attending the United Nations Preparatory Conference for the Review of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty in May in Vienna. The Conference is at an important time with concerns around Iran and with the wider disarmament process.

A Mayors for Peace board meeting will also take place in Vienna to discuss its future development.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

Mayors for Peace Working Group, 29th March, Manchester Town Hall.

NFLA All Ireland Forum, 20th April, Dundalk Town Hall.

What now for nuclear? Public meeting, 26th April, Friends Meeting House, Manchester.

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

Nuclear campaigners conference, 30th June, Manchester.

NFLA letters to the media, March 2012
(all emailed directly to NFLA members)

- Nuclear waste consultation concludes and NFLA calls for halt in process
- Will Hinkley C really be clean and secure?
- How can nuclear be secure if the uranium is running out?
- It’s clear the public are with us on nuclear
- Blowing hot and cold on windfarms