Hinkley, Hitachi and new build

The prospects for new nuclear build in England and Wales developed in various contradictory ways in November.

The NFLA submitted a detailed joint response to the Environment Agency over its continued concern that a large number of environmental, technical and scientific issues have not yet been adequately addressed by EDF for approval of permits for a new reactor at Hinkley Point. This response is on the NFLA website.

This comes at a time when the ONR has granted the owners of Hinkley a new nuclear licence and reports suggesting Centrica may pull out of the project.

Meanwhile, the Japanese utility Hitachi has bought the ‘Horizon’ partnership taking over the Wylfa and Oldbury new build sites. The NFLA’s media release on the issue noted there are many uncertainties and risks which may not necessarily see new reactors at both sites.

NDA hold annual dialogue as NAO criticises it over Sellafield

The NFLA Chair and the NFLA Secretary attended the annual meeting of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority’s stakeholder dialogue held in Manchester.

The meeting had updates on nuclear skills, Dounreay, NDA competition process for Magnox sites, the underground waste repository and future challenges to the NDA.

The meeting gave the opportunity for the NFLA Chair and other groups to raise concerns over issues like the movement of high-level waste from Dounreay to Sellafield.

Shortly after the NDA meeting, a report of the National Audit Office highlighted what it classed as the ‘intolerable risks’ from the Sellafield site. It noted a lack of value for money and that it would eventually cost £67.5 billion to fully deal with the site’s liabilities.

In a media release, NFLA welcomed this report as a wake-up call over the costs of nuclear power.
NFLA Secretary presents emergency planning issues to ONR

The NFLA Secretary provided a presentation on nuclear emergency planning concerns at the latest meeting of the Office for Nuclear Regulation NGO Forum.

The biannual meeting considered issues of concern to NGOs, including progress with the Generic Design Assessment of EDF’s reactor design for Hinkley Point. It was confirmed that Hitachi’s reactor design would have to go through the same lengthy process.

There was detailed workshop discussion on emergency planning, the underground waste repository and the ONR’s general openness and transparency.

The ONR have suggested that the NFLA Secretary should seek to raise its views on nuclear emergency planning through the LGA’s emergency planning group. The Forum is a useful interface for challenging the ONR.

NFLA produces report on co-operative international alliances

The NFLA Secretariat has published a policy briefing which outlines a number of international alliances across nuclear policy which supports its general aims and objectives.

The briefing includes information on Vienna City Council’s new network of cities seeking a nuclear free Europe and the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

It also notes recent co-operation with the Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan Network.

It outlines the ongoing co-operation with KIMO International and its joint views on limiting marine radioactive discharges.

It also outlines the close co-operation with the Mayors for Peace and the NGO ICAN-UK.

This useful briefing can be found on the NFLA website.

NFLA submits views on Barrow and Trident replacement

The NFLA Secretariat has submitted its views to the independent Nuclear Education Trust on the prospects for the Barrow area with the Government’s Trident Alternatives Review.

The NFLA note their opposition to Trident replacement and the benefits of defence diversification for a number of renewable energy projects in the Barrow area. The response is on the NFLA website.

The NFLA Secretary will attend the publication of NET’s report at an event in Westminster on December 13th.
‘Dash for gas’, new nuclear or renewable alternatives?

The NFLA Secretariat have reproduced on its website a detailed briefing by NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor Pete Roche on the future options for UK energy policy – a ‘dash for gas’, new nuclear build or renewable energy and local energy efficiency alternatives. The briefing was developed for the ‘No2NuclearPower.org’ website and gives a comprehensive overview of the flawed nature of the UK’s energy forecasts and how following the model used by Germany will provide lower carbon emissions and wide energy security.

The briefing also provides some detail on the great benefits that can be pursued with a more comprehensive energy efficiency policy. Such a policy would reduce the need for copious new amounts of electricity generation. The briefing can be found on the NFLA website.

NFLA prepares for its 2012 AGM in Manchester

The NFLA will be holding its 2012 Annual General Meeting and Annual Policy Briefing in Manchester Town Hall on December 7th.

Prior to the AGM, a NFLA Scotland meeting and NFLA Steering Committee will discuss all relevant nuclear policy developments.

Dr Paul Dorfman will outline the various European nuclear policy forums and the work of the NCG in promoting the German energy model to the UK.

Dave Webb, Chair of CND will consider the co-operation with NFLA, Mayors for Peace and many NGOs in the policy area of nuclear non-proliferation. A flyer is on the NFLA website.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

**NFLA Scotland Forum, NFLA Steering Committee and NFLA AGM, Manchester Town Hall, 7th December.**

**NFLA 2012 Annual Policy Seminar, hosted by the NFLA English Forum, Manchester Town Hall, 7th December.**

**NET event on Barrow and the Trident Alternatives Review, Portcullis House, Westminster, London, 13th December.**