Hinkley Point C finance problems

Despite the likelihood of a legal challenge to the European Commission’s approval of the state aid package for new nuclear reactors at Hinkley Point, this huge project has other key financing problems.

‘The Guardian’ reports that Areva, who would construct the reactors, are in serious financial problems. This follows a profits warning over the extended delays to the building of its reactors in Finland and France.

The ‘FT’ has reported that EDF is seeking financial backing from Saudi Electric, due to concerns over the level of control that Chinese utilities want to have in the Hinkley project, and in their desire to build a new nuclear reactor at Bradwell.

‘The Times’ also reports a secret UK Government review is looking at the entire Hinkley project. NFLA has written to both newspapers arguing it is time to move from new nuclear build to renewable & energy efficiency alternatives.

NFLA re-elects Chair & discusses key nuclear issues for 2015

NFLA held its 2014 Annual General Meeting, seminar and Steering Committee meeting in Edinburgh.

In the AGM, Councillor Mark Hackett of Manchester City Council was reappointed as Chair. NFLA’s constitution, financial report and 2015 Service Plan were also approved.

As well as a NFLA SC meeting, the NFLA also held its 2014 Annual Policy Seminar.

This looked at key nuclear policy strands for 2015, with the UK election, NPT Review Conference and Paris Climate Conference at the fore.

Kate Hudson of CND talked about the likely trends in the Trident replacement debate.

NFLA Policy Advisor Pete Roche looked at how the new nuclear build debate may develop in 2015. And the Sunday Herald’s Environment Editor Rob Edwards outlined his observations from a Green Cross tour around the Fukushima area. See the NFLA website for further information.
NFLA Welsh Forum hears of Fukushima and FED issues

The NFLA Welsh Forum held its autumn seminar in Cardiff City Hall focusing on 3 issues of interest to its members.

Brian Jones of CND Cymru provided an overview of a Welsh NGO delegation visit to the Fukushima area, as part of a Green Cross International study tour.

His talk focused on the major issues with contaminated soil and water, as well as the major dislocation to evacuated communities.

Independent nuclear consultant Tim Deere-Jones provided a report considering the marine environment issues of a new FED dissolution plant at Hinkley Point on the South Wales coast.

The NFLA Secretary then outlined recent submissions on behalf of the Forum, and its report on local authority energy policy.

The presentations are now on the NFLA website.

NFLA Ireland Forum to look at energy futures & nuclear risks

The NFLA All Ireland Forum meets in mid December in Dublin on energy and nuclear issues of interest to Irish councils.

The NFLA Policy Advisor will be outlining the NFLA’s views in response to the Irish Government’s consultation on the future development of Irish energy policy.

This will be followed by a presentation from the NFLA Secretary on Irish uses of its recent local authority energy report.

Donal Traynor of UC Investment will profile the development of community energy in Ireland.

Tim Deere-Jones will conclude the seminar by talking about his research analysing the RPII’s report on the marine pollution impact to Ireland of a UK new nuclear programme.

Registration is open. There is a form on the NFLA website. Irish members should attend.

NFLA to attend key CNFE and Mayors for Peace meetings

The NFLA Chair and NFLA Secretary will attend a number of key meetings next month in Vienna.

They will be meeting senior representatives from Vienna City Council to discuss the development of the Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe Network.

They will also attend a Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Board Meeting (for Manchester CC) and the ICAN Civil Society Forum. A full report on all these meetings & the International Conference will follow next month.
Manchester formally receives Hiroshima gingko tree seeds

In a special ceremony held on the 34th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. These trees managed to re-grow and they are seen as powerful symbols of peace and regeneration.

The ceremony allowed for senior councillors to see how the seeds are growing and future plans for them. In 2015, Manchester will initiate a school arts project to encourage art posters on Hiroshima, peace & growth after disaster.

It is hoped winning entries can meet with Mayors for Peace representatives in November 2015. It is also hoped other NFLA / M4P members can receive seeds shortly.

NFLA submits concerns over Wylfa new build

The NFLA Steering Committee approved a submission on the proposed development of new nuclear reactors at Wylfa in Anglesey.

The submission is part of the pre-application process that Horizon needs to undertake in seeking local and national approval for the reactors.

In the NFLA’s view, the global electricity market has changed rapidly away from centralised baseload models. NFLA also argue that the project is likely to skew the island’s economy and could have a long-time negative effect on unemployment.

The ABWR reactor proposed for Wylfa does not have a good operating record, with none being built anywhere else. There are also key radwaste and emergency planning concerns with it.

NFLA New Nuclear Monitor 36, on its website, is available.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

**CNFE meeting / Mayors for Peace meeting, City Hall, Vienna, 5th and 6th December.**

**ICAN Civil Society Forum, Vienna, 6th and 7th December.**

**NFLA All Ireland Forum, City Hall, Dublin, 12th December.**

**NFLA Steering Committee, Manchester Town Hall, 30th January.**

**UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter, Manchester Town Hall, 30th January.**

**NFLA Scotland AGM, Glasgow City Chambers, 6th February.**