**Is nuclear new build ‘justified’?**

On 18th October, the UK Energy Minister Chris Huhne outlined the Government’s decision to ‘justify’ new nuclear build, giving a key legal green light for developers. The Government claims in a weighty two volume tone that the economic benefits of nuclear outweigh any social or health concerns.

The NFLA joined with other groups to decry the lack of a public inquiry for this decision. The views of the Welsh and Irish Governments have also been ignored in this regard. A joint letter has been sent to the Minister and officials. The Government has also announced a re-consultation of National Policy Statements with just 8 sites approved for new reactors. At the same time, the Severn Tidal Barrage scheme was shelved in terms of cost and scale.

The NFLA will continue to outline its key concerns over a new build programme.

**All preparations for NFLA’s 30th anniversary in place**

A number of events have now been finalised for the NFLA’s 30th anniversary and the Mayors for Peace (M4P) 2020 Vision board meeting on the 4th and 5th November.

On the 4th November the Mayor of Nagasaki and Lord Mayor of Manchester will open a ‘Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb – 65 Years On’ exhibition, unveil 2 civic plaques and launch the Manchester City Centre Peace Trail.

An evening civic reception will see invited NFLA and Mayors for Peace guests commemorate the 30 years of campaigns advocating a nuclear free option. On the 5th November a board meeting will bring international Mayors together to discuss future M4P strategy. Following on will be a special schools event where a Nagasaki A-bomb survivor will recount his experiences.

The November NFLA newsletter will provide full coverage of this milestone in its history.
Sellafield discharges will increase NFLA Ireland seminar hears

The NFLA All Ireland Forum held its autumn seminar in Fingal County Hall on the subject of radioactive discharges and nuclear new build.

Welcomed by Mayor Ken Farrell, the seminar was opened by NFLA Policy Advisor Pete Roche. He outlined a NFLA / KIMO joint paper which calculates that the radioactive discharges arising from Sellafield are likely to rise and not get ‘near to zero’ until 2023/4.

Marine pollution expert Tim Deere-Jones noted the types of radioactive discharge likely from the 4 potential new nuclear reactor sites on the Irish Sea coast, and their effects.

John Mouat, KIMO Secretary, reported on the recent OSPAR Commission meeting and noted the positive joint work KIMO and the NFLA do in this area. See the NFLA website for further information.

Can we afford new nuclear? NFLA Wales seminar finds out

One of the most contentious areas of a potential UK nuclear new build programme is how it will be financed – what does the statement of ‘no public subsidies’ really mean?

The NFLA Welsh Forum will be considering nuclear new build economics at its next seminar, kindly being hosted by Ceredigion County Council on 25th November.

Confirmed speakers are Dr Paul Dorfman from Warwick University Business School and Tim Richards from South Wales Anti Nuclear Alliance.

A speaker from Horizon – developers at Wylfa – has been invited, as has a speaker from the Centre for Alternative Technology.

The seminar is being opened out to all Welsh councillors, local nuclear and green groups and those interested in this area. Contact the NFLA Secretariat for further details.

NFLA responds to Scottish Government rad-waste annex

The NFLA Secretariat has responded to an additional consultation on the Scottish Government’s draft radioactive waste policy.

It has submitted additional information on why it has discounted a deep waste repository and chooses a ‘near site’ near surface’ facility.

The NFLA agrees with this policy due to the large amount of unresolved scientific and technical issues.

Meanwhile, in Cumbria a study has been published screening out unsuitable geology in west Cumbria for a deep waste dump.

Letters to the press in October 2010:

All are on the NFLA website.

- Trident sub grounding safety worries
- Wylfa and Severn Barrage – why is nuclear power getting better deal?
- What are DECC afraid off with NPS consultation announcement?
- Blowing cold air on new nuclear build
- Collapse of US new nuclear build deal
- Another fire alert at Wylfa – why?
- Fine words and real action on nuclear weapons is welcome
- Cowen speech on nuclear weapons is very timely
- Renewables & nuclear – the Scots debate
Report shows nuclear subs emergency plan shortfalls

The NFLA has been provided with a summary from Large & Associates (prepared for SCANS) of the shortfalls in emergency planning arrangements in the event of an incident and radiation emergency arising at the nuclear submarine berth in Southampton. It notes confusion over what is or is not a ‘reasonably foreseeable’ risk. It further notes that the risk frequencies, as compared with the public information from REPPIR regulations, also differ. It notes the HSE has not had the time to assess the Southampton berth safety case, leaving it to the MOD regulator. Early radiation exposure of personnel required for the deployment of countermeasures is seen as the principal weakness of the plans.


Other news in brief

New NFLA All Ireland Co Chair – Councillor Ollan Herr was elected as the new Co-chair for the Republic of Ireland. He joins Councillor Michael Carr from Newry and Mourne Council to provide a joint Irish voice on such issues. Councillor Herr represents Dundalk Town Council.

NDA survives the cuts – the bulk of the NDA’s annual budget has survived the UK Government’s major cuts programme.

COMARE KIKK report delay – COMARE have said their response to the KIKK report will now be published in its Annual Report published by the end of 2010.

67% oppose Trident in Scotland – a YouGov poll for ‘The Herald’ notes two thirds of Scots do not want to see Trident replacement at the expense of cutting budgets for conventional forces. The UK Government confirmed the ‘main gate’ decision on Trident will be delayed until after 2015.

Forthcoming NFLA meetings

Official opening of Hiroshima-Nagasaki exhibition - PHM, Manchester, 4th November.

NFLA Steering Committee - Town Hall, Manchester, 4th November.

Civic reception for 30th anniversary of NFLA - Manchester 4th November.

Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision board meeting - MDDA, Manchester, 5th November.

NFLA Scotland Forum – Perth, 19th November.

NFLA Wales Forum – Aberystwyth, 25th November.

NFLA AGM – Dundee, 29th January 2011.