NFLA talk nuclear with Welsh Minister

The NFLA Welsh Forum Vice Chair Ray Davies and the NFLA Secretary met with Welsh Environment Minister John Griffiths and officials to discuss Welsh energy policy and its stance on new nuclear build at Wylfa.

Accompanying the NFLA pair was Neil Crumpton, an independent energy consultant who has helped Friends of the Earth Cymru submit a detailed response to the Welsh Assembly’s inquiry into Welsh energy policy.

The meeting allowed the NFLA to raise concerns that nuclear new build diverted attention from the benefits to Wales of renewable energy, micro generation and energy efficiency. The need to tackle fuel poverty and concerns over radioactive waste were also raised.

The Minister welcomed the NFLA submission and outlined the Welsh Government’s energy policy. Further dialogue was encouraged. A NFLA seminar in Cardiff in January is now planned on Welsh energy policy.

UK Fukushima nuclear safety review final report produced

The UK Chief Nuclear Inspector’s final report on nuclear safety following the March Fukushima disaster was published in mid October.

The final report adds in a number of additional conclusions & several recommendations but does not change its overall view that the UK nuclear safety regime is broadly fit-for-purpose and the Fukushima incident does not raise any specific issues of concern to it.

In a media release the NFLA put forward the view that it was disappointed with the narrow remit of the report. It also noted the timing of its publication when the Fukushima incident is still not under full control.

The NFLA Secretary wrote to the Chief Inspector after NFLA submissions were not placed initially on the ONR’s website.

The NFLA Secretary raised queries with the Deputy Chief Inspector at a NuLEAF meeting and will attend an ONR November dialogue.
NFLA media releases

October 2011:

(On NFLA website.)

- What is the real level of radiation coming from Fukushima?
- NFLA puts forward its view to the Welsh Environment Minister
- C’llr magazine – NFLA calls for new thinking on energy
- NFLA Scotland report on Scottish energy policy
- NFLA ‘extremely disappointed’ with UK nuclear safety review final report

STOP PRESS!

The Northern Ireland Environment Minister Alex Attwood will be the keynote speaker at the NFLA AGM Policy Briefing in Newry on 25th November.

Other speakers include the Director of Friends of the Earth, James Orr and Brian Britton of the Irish Offshore Wind Association (tbc).

Cllr Rick Nickerson from KIMO will present a report on radioactive material shipments across N. Europe. IT IS FREE & ALL ARE WELCOME!

NFLA provide Fukushima presentation to KIMO Conference

The NFLA Secretary was one of the speakers at the October 2011 KIMO Conference in the city of Aberdeen.

The NFLA Secretary provided an overview to councillors and council officers from across Northern Europe of the marine pollution issues relating to Fukushima.

Independent marine samples, attained by Greenpeace, show high levels of radioactive contamination in fish and seaweed some 55 kms from the stricken Fukushima reactors.

Some 7 months after Fukushima a recent independent study has shown that the disaster released far more radiation than the Japanese Government has claimed. It also noted that spent fuel cooling ponds played a role in the leak of caesium 137, which could have been prevented. A media release on the NFLA website offers further detail on this report.

NFLA energy policy in influential Councillor magazine

The NFLA’s energy policy was highlighted in a full two page article in the October edition of the ‘C’llr’ magazine, which is published by the Local Government Information Unit.

In response to an August interview with the Leader of Somerset County Council, advocating new build at Hinkley, the NFLA article includes interviews with Glasgow councillor Euan McLeod, Cardiff councillor Ed Bridges & Manchester councillor Mark Hackett.

The article gives a fair representation of the work of the NFLA in local government and in its interaction with the nuclear industry and regulators, the various Governments and the wider NGO community.

It also noted its energy policy promoting the benefits of renewable energy, microgeneration and energy efficiency.

The article is on the NFLA & LGIU websites.

Consultations – Hinkley discharges / Submarine dismantling

The NFLA Secretariat is co-operating with a collection of groups to submit a detailed response to the Environment Agency’s consultation on the environmental permits for the proposed Hinkley nuclear reactor. This has been extended to mid December.

Meanwhile, the NFLA will take a full part in the MOD’s consultation on dismantling nuclear submarines, which was launched on October 28th. Further details on the NFLA response will be profiled in future newsletters.
Mayors for Peace Executive to discuss 2012 strategy

Manchester councillor Mark Hackett and the NFLA Secretary will represent the city, and the wider NFLA movement, at the November board meetings of the Mayors for Peace.

The meetings will discuss the direction of the Mayors for Peace following its milestone of passing 5000 members last month.

The meeting will discuss its 2012 Action Plan, the operating cost of the group and the setting up of regional sections. NFLA is one of Mayors for Peace’s partner organisations around the world.

November NFLA meetings – alternative energy discussions

NFLA Wales Forum –
The Welsh Forum held its winter seminar in Caernarfon. Speakers included Carl Clowes from PAWB, the NFLA Secretary and Neil Crompton for Friends of the Earth. The NFLA Welsh Forum Chair also spoke at a follow-up conference on the alternatives to Wylfa B.

NFLA Ireland Forum –
The All Ireland Forum in Ireland holds its winter seminar in Wexford. Former Irish energy minister Eamon Ryan and a speaker from the SEAI will talk about the Irish potential for offshore wind. The NFLA Secretary and Tim Deere-Jones will talk about new nuclear build and its impact on Ireland.

NFLA English Forum –
The English Forum will meet in Rotherham to look at the role Councils can play to promote an alternative energy revolution. Colin Hines and Councillor Andrew Cooper are amongst the speakers.

Forthcoming NFLA meetings (see the NFLA website)

NFLA All Ireland Forum, 11th November, Council Offices, Wexford.

NFLA English Forum, 18th November, Town Hall, Rotherham.

NFLA AGM, 25th November, Council Offices, Newry.

NFLA Steering Committee, 25th November, Council Offices, Newry.

NFLA Annual Policy Briefing, 25th Nov, Council Offices, Newry – includes Alex Attwood MLA, Northern Ireland Environment Minister.