NFLA meets Irish Government

The NFLA Irish Co-Chairs & Secretary and the NFLA Secretary met in early October with officers from the Republic of Ireland’s Environment Ministry to discuss nuclear policy matters.

The useful meeting had been agreed by Minister Phil Hogan’s office and it allowed for discussion on a number of issues of concern to the NFLA.

Discussion particularly focused on Sellafield, UK new nuclear build, discharges into the Irish Sea & the transportation of nuclear materials across the Irish Sea.

The Irish officials noted that they have regular meetings with their UK counterparts. The NFLA advocated a more public approach to raising Irish concerns.

Improving discussions on such matters with the N Ireland Government was encouraged. A special meeting at Sellafield, as Norwegian authorities have held, was also suggested.

NFLA discusses waste issues with new UK energy minister

The NFLA Secretary attended the latest meeting of the DECC NGO Forum. The meeting allowed for discussion with the newly appointed UK Energy Minister John Hayes.

The meeting included a useful interface of views with DECC, NDA, ONR and Environment Agency officials on radioactive waste matters & the European Commission’s stress test report.

The open forum with the Minister allowed for challenges to be made on the UK new nuclear build programme and the UK Government’s draft Energy Bill.

A robust meeting was also held the following day between NGO reps and officials from COMARE over low level radiation and health issues.

A full report of both meetings will be provided to the NFLA Steering Committee on the 7th December.
NFLA All Ireland Forum discuss new build and shale gas

The NFLA All Ireland Forum held its autumn seminar in Downpatrick in Northern Ireland.

The keynote speaker was local South Down MP Margaret Ritchie, who gave a passionate overview of her concern about Sellafield and its effects on Irish coastal communities.

Ciara McMahon from the RPII provided an explanation of how they were analysing the possible impact of UK new nuclear build on Ireland. Its final report is due out by the end of the year and will be profiled at the next NFLA Ireland meeting.

The NFLA Secretary provided an overview of the key nuclear issues affecting Ireland and the NFLA's preferred energy policy. Declan Allison from Friends of the Earth concluded the seminar noting the risks of shale gas fracking in Ireland.

The presentations will be placed on the NFLA website.

NFLA Welsh Forum discusses energy and Trident matters

The NFLA Welsh Forum held an informative seminar on nuclear policy matters at Cardiff County Hall.

In an excellent speaker forum, Carl Clowes from PAWB profiled its ‘Manifesto for Anglesey’ of economic alternatives to new nuclear build at Wylfa.

Professor Nick Pidgeon provided a very useful overview of public attitudes to nuclear power. Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM concluded the seminar by arguing that Milford Haven is not a suitable alternative to the Trident base at Faslane.

See the NFLA website for further detail.

Cumbrian Councils postpone decision on waste repository

The three Cumbrian Councils considering whether to move ahead in the process for hosting a deep underground radioactive waste repository have postponed the decision on it until January 2013.

The postponement is due to seeking more guarantees on withdrawal from the process, information on community benefits and on interim storage.

NFLA welcomes this postponement as an opportunity to think again about alternatives & uncertainties within this huge project.
NFLA invite Vienna Municipality to Annual Policy Seminar

The NFLA will be holding its 2012 AGM and Annual Policy Seminar in Manchester Town Hall on December 7th.

The NFLA AGM will be electing a new Chair for 2013 and Vice Chairs to its Steering Committee.

A speaker from Vienna has agreed to take part and other speakers at the AGM seminar will consider taking nuclear policy issues forward at the European level.

Plans to bring Vienna’s ‘Uranium mining in and for Europe’ exhibition is also being developed.

If you would like to attend the seminar please contact the NFLA Secretary. See the NFLA website for more detail.

NFLA remembers 60th anniversary of first weapon test

The NFLA formally commemorated the 60th anniversary of the first British atomic weapon test on October 2nd.

The British atomic weapon tests sought to ensure that the UK could possess nuclear weapons separate from the US and the then Soviet Union. Tests took place in Maralinga, Monte Bello Islands and Christmas Island.

The NFLA media release noted its support for the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association and their campaign for justice & compensation for illnesses incurred.

Last month, the Mayors for Peace have formally complained to the US Government about new nuclear weapon tests.

Meanwhile, at a peace awards ceremony the Mayor of Reykjavik commented on the positive role of the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign. 67% of Europe’s capital cities are now Mayors for Peace members.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

ONR NGO Forum, 6th November, London.

NFLA Scotland Forum, Manchester Town Hall, 7th December.

NFLA Steering Committee and Annual General Meeting, Manchester Town Hall, 7th December.

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