Hinkley C – legal state aid?

In late October, after a year of prolonged discussion, the UK Government announced it had agreed a 'strike price' of £92.50 with EDF to develop a new nuclear plant at Hinkley Point in West Somerset.

The 35 year deal with EDF was hailed by the Government as the first new nuclear reactor project to be built in the UK for a generation.

As part of the deal it was announced that two Chinese state utilities will take a 40% stake in the project.

The strike price and the length of the project are much more preferential terms than that offered for renewable energy, at a time when ‘green’ taxes are also coming under political pressure.

3 hurdles remain for new nuclear – EDF making an investment decision in 2014, a legal challenge by An Taisce, and approval of the deal by the EU.

The proposed Hinkley Point C site in West Somerset – a done deal?

NFLA publishes advice note on radwaste consultation

The NFLA Secretariat has published a detailed Policy Briefing for its members with background and some suggested responses to the UK Government new consultation on radioactive waste.

The new consultation advocates continuing with the policy of deep underground ‘disposal’ of high and intermediate level radioactive waste.

The NFLA are troubled with a number of aspects with this consultation. District Councils have been given the primary decision-making role for future ‘voluntarist’ policy processes. There also remains no commitment to do a full geological screening of the UK.

Finland and Sweden undertook such studies and considerably more public interaction than the UK.

The NFLA briefing can be found on the NFLA website. NFLA members are encouraged to register for the local authority consultation workshop on the 14th November. The closing date for the consultation is 5th December.
NFLA media releases
October 2013:
(On NFLA website.)

- Hinkley C, better renewable alternatives and fair green taxes
- NFLA Dalgety Bay report – are Welsh sites contaminated like Scottish & English MOD sites?
- UK radioactive waste management consultation – NFLA advocates going back to the drawing board with updated policy
- NFLA Galway seminar highlights democratic deficit in energy policy consultations
- NFLA publishes report on Dalgety Bay contamination and asks how many other MOD sites are contaminated?
- NFLA All Ireland Forum holds seminar on Sellafield derived wastes and the Irish west coast

NFLA All Ireland seminar considers energy democratic deficit

The NFLA held a well attended seminar in Galway’s City Hall considering three issues of concern to Irish members.

In the first NFLA meeting on the Irish west coast, the seminar held a passionate discussion about public engagement in the developing of renewable energy projects in Ireland. Former TD and Councillor Dan Boyle outlined a Green Foundation Ireland report which encouraged a greater level of local engagement.

Tim Deere-Jones spoke about the levels of radioactive contamination on the Irish west coast from Sellafield derived discharges.

The NFLA Secretary noted the European dimension to the UK new nuclear programme.

The presentations have been sent to delegates and will go on the NFLA website.

NFLA English Forum to discuss contaminated metal recycling

The NFLA English Forum is holding its autumn seminar in Rotherham. They will be discussing issues around reducing the risks of radiation sources into the metals market and concerns over nuclear materials transportation and recycling.

The seminar follows on from a consideration of such issues in the NFLA’s meeting in June.

Confirmed speakers include Steve Chandler from the Environment Agency, discussing its project on reducing radiation risks; and Tim Deere-Jones on wider concerns over waste transports & recycling.

The NFLA Secretary has also invited the NDA and the BMRA to speak at the seminar.

The seminar is being held in Rotherham Town Hall on the 22nd November and early registration is welcome for it. The flyer is also on the NFLA website.

Cardiff hosts 2013 NFLA AGM and Annual Policy Seminar

The NFLA Welsh Forum will host the 2013 NFLA AGM and Annual Policy Seminar in Cardiff County Hall in early December.

A joint NFLA Welsh Forum / NFLA AGM Seminar have 3 expert speakers - David Lowry, Rebecca Johnson and Paul Flynn MP.

All NFLA members should attend. The seminar is open to non members & NGOs.
Former PM Gordon Brown praises NFLA Dalgety Bay report

In early October the NFLA published a detailed analysis of the ongoing issue with radioactive materials being found on Dalgety Bay in Fife.

The NFLA report, written in conjunction with Fife Council urges the Ministry of Defence to agree to pay for a full clean-up and remediation of the site. Radiation is likely to derive from radium dials of Second World War fighter planes, which were disposed of close to the beach.

The report, on the NFLA website, has been warmly welcomed by the local MP and former Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Mayors for Peace looks to New York and Sarajevo in 2014

The NFLA is continuing to cooperate with the Mayors for Peace on its common aim for a nuclear weapons free world.

Mayors for Peace staff took part in the recent United Nations General Assembly meeting on nuclear weapons.

As Mayors for Peace start to develop national chapters around the world, it held a major Conference in France for Mediterranean Mayors.

Plans are also being developed for a local government presence at the final UN NPT PrepCon in New York next May.

Mayors for Peace are planning to hold a board meeting in Sarajevo in June 2014, around the centenary of the First World War, and link in with other large NGOs also in the city at this time. Manchester is also cooperating with Sarajevo on major open-air ‘Making Peace’ exhibitions in each city.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

**NFLA SC, AGM AND ANNUAL POLICY SEMINAR 2013**

**Cardiff County Hall, 6th December 2013**

10am – 11.30am
NFLA UK & Ireland Steering Committee

11.30am – 12.30pm
2013 NFLA AGM

1.30pm – 3.30pm
Annual Policy Seminar:

- David Lowry – nuclear security & proliferation issues
- Rebecca Johnson – Trident & the political debate
- Paul Flynn MP – Hinkley, new build and Parliamentary scrutiny

**ONR NGO Forum, 5th November, London**

**Stakeholder event for Councils on MRWS radwaste consultation, 14th November, London.**

**NFLA English Forum, 22nd November, Rotherham Town Hall.**

**NFLA Steering Committee and AGM, 6th December, County Hall, Cardiff.**

**NFLA Annual Policy seminar hosted by Welsh Forum, 6th December, County Hall, Cardiff.**

Dates for early 2014 meetings will be agreed at AGM.