Radwaste – repeating past mistakes?

The NFLA has noted its initial disappointment with the publication of a new public consultation by DECC on the future management of radioactive waste in England and Wales.

A controversial part of the consultation is that DECC are not insisting that County Councils are part of the decision-making body. This clearly follows on from the decision by Cumbria County Council to say ‘no’ to moving on with a repository process, while Copeland and Allerdale Councils had said ‘yes’.

The NFLA issued a media release on the DECC consultation, which can be found on its website.

Manchester agrees to establish UK & Ireland M4P chapter

Following the decisions made in the Hiroshima Executive and General Conferences of Mayors for Peace last month (see NFLA Newsletter July-August 2013), the Lord Mayor of Manchester and the NFLA representatives met with the new Secretary General of Mayors for Peace.

At the meeting with Mr Komizo and Ms Miyamoto of Mayors for Peace and senior Manchester/NFLA councillors it was formally agreed that Manchester would be a ‘lead city’ committed to developing a UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace chapter.

Manchester was the first point on a detailed schedule for Mr Komizo, who also visited the 2020 Vision Secretariat in Ypres, as well as the Conference of Mediterranean city members of Mayors for Peace in Aubagne, France. He then visited French lead city Malakoff before attending the United Nations special General Assembly meeting on nuclear weapons. A full report is to be discussed by the NFLA Steering Committee.
NFLA media releases
September 2013: (On NFLA website.)

- NFLA holds important joint seminar on nuclear emergency planning and MOD nuclear weapon convoys
- Radioactive waste management consultation – why is DECC making the same mistakes again and again?
- NFLA and other groups want greater transparency from NDA over proposed shipment from Dounreay to the United States

NFLA Scotland EP seminar raises real and wide concerns

The NFLA held a very well attended joint seminar on nuclear weapons convoys and the UK’s civil & defence nuclear emergency planning (EP) regime.

The seminar held in Glasgow included talks by the Herald journalist Rob Edwards on recent published articles of concern around civil and nuclear EP.

Jane Tallents from Nukewatch gave a very useful overview of the risks of MOD nuclear weapon convoys.

Peter Burt of Nuclear Information Service and the NFLA Secretary also provided informative overviews of concern with defence and civil nuclear EP. With Pete Wilkinson of CANE, they also attended a meeting with DECC, ONR and Environment Agency staff to discuss greater engagement on such matters.

The presentations are on the NFLA website.

New nuclear build – delays continue

After many months of negotiation there has still been no conclusion between the UK Government and EDF over financial support and guarantees for a new nuclear reactor at Hinkley Point.

Media reports suggest there is still no consensus on the ‘strike price’ for new nuclear. EDF is also still seeking a new funding partner following Centrica’s withdrawal from the project. Chinese and Russian companies have been in discussion with EDF, according to media speculation. A final decision by EDF is now not expected until the end of the year.

If such a deal is struck it would still need EU approval. The NFLA are discussing this matter with the Vienna led ‘Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe’ network.

2 legal challenges to new build are being considered in December. NFLA will remain active on these issues.

NFLA All Ireland Forum to debate wind power & discharges

The NFLA All Ireland Forum is being held in Galway on the 11th October.

It will be considering the planning and political issues behind a major expansion of wind and other renewable energy in Ireland.

It will also consider the level of radioactive discharge on the west coast of Ireland. An overview of the nuclear new build issue will also be provided.

To register download the flyer from the NFLA website.
Special UN General Assembly meeting on nuclear weapons

The annual General Assembly meeting of the United Nations focused this year on nuclear weapons. This shows the importance of the issue for the UN. Most world leaders attended it.

The meeting was particularly important in a positive statement made by the new President of Iran for talks on its nuclear programme. This was positively taken up by President Obama.

Other leaders talked about the harmful effects of nuclear weapons & the need for a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

Civil NGOs jointly called for a comprehensive prohibition that includes agreement on the ways and means to eliminating all nuclear weapons. In 2014 Mexico will host a follow-up Conference on nuclear weapons, prior to the NPT Preparatory Conference in New York.

NFLA English Forum seminar and Annual Seminar in Wales

The NFLA English Forum’s next seminar will be held in Rotherham on the 15th November.

The seminar will discuss issues around contaminated metals and risks around the transport of radioactive materials by sea.

A flyer will be sent round NFLA members and placed on the NFLA website shortly.

The NFLA Welsh Forum is hosting the 2013 NFLA UK & Ireland AGM in Cardiff on the 6th December.

An Annual Policy Seminar will be held by the Welsh Forum at the meetings which will be considering issues around nuclear security and proliferation, nuclear weapons and promoting alternatives to nuclear power.

Further details on this and all other NFLA policy areas will be discussed at the NFLA Steering Committee on the 4th October.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

**NFLA Steering Committee, 4th October, Town Hall, Manchester.**

**NFLA All Ireland Forum, 11th October, Galway City Hall.**

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

**NFLA English Forum, 15th November, Rotherham Town Hall.**

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

NFLA letters to media, September 2013:

- A common sense approach on Trident replacement
- EU needs to stand up to energy companies for the sake of climate change mitigation
- Stress deaths from Fukushima part of the picture of the real costs of nuclear power
- Does nuclear power really tick all the boxes?

**NFLA SECRETARIAT OFFICE MOVE:**

The NFLA Secretariat has now moved back to the fully refurbished Manchester Town Hall Extension.

The new postal address is noted above. Phone numbers and the email address are unchanged.

NFLA, Mayors for Peace staff and Ambassadors and senior Manchester councillors meet in the Lord Mayor’s suite of Manchester Town Hall.