EC approves Hinkley Point?

The NFLA has been working closely with the Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe (CNFE) to clarify with the European Commission (EC) on its position with state aid for Hinkley Point. Such a decision would be quite different from the Commission’s deep reservations on the proposed deal as outlined in December. Media reports suggest a leak from Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia’s office confirm that he will recommend to the full Commission that it approves the UK state aid deal with EDF for Hinkley Point. Such a decision would be quite different from the Commission’s deep reservations on the proposed deal as outlined in December. The CNFE letter notes that such a deal is both anti-competitive and it would distort the internal market. CNFE have also requested to meet with Mr Almunia as a matter of urgency. A number of green groups are threatening a legal challenge if the EC approves the deal. The NFLA media release on the CNFE letter can be found on its website.

Major NFLA SC & Mayors for Peace meetings in Manchester

Meeting papers for important meetings of the NFLA Steering Committee and of the Mayors for Peace have been issued. The NFLA Steering Committee is meeting in Manchester Town Hall to discuss nuclear policy developments & approve the work of the NFLA Secretariat. The Secretariat has been busy over the summer drafting policy briefings on energy policy, nuclear weapons policy and nuclear emergency planning. On the same day, a meeting of the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group is taking place. This meeting will discuss the development of a formal chapter of Mayors for Peace as part of the decisions agreed at the International General Conference. All UK and Irish members have been given a policy briefing and questionnaire to consider in reference to moving the Mayors for Peace forward. The NFLA wish the meeting well in moving forward with the creation of a Chapter.
Heysham & Hartlepool reactors ‘closed till December’

The NFLA has issued a media release highlighting that EDF have had to close Heysham & Hartlepool reactors for urgent safety checks.

The closure comes after test results indicated a structural problem with the boiler spine at Heysham No 1 reactor. As a precaution, the similar No 2 reactor and the reactors at Hartlepool have been closed. It may take until December before they are reopened. With planned maintenance work at Hunterston & Dungeness, up to 25% of UK nuclear electricity is out of action.

NFLA note that this comes at a time when UK wind power reached new records of 22% of total electricity in August.

NFLA argue such closures show the urgent need to move towards a renewable energy and energy efficiency future. The media release is on the NFLA website.

English Forum looks at defence nuclear safety concerns

The NFLA English Forum holds its autumn seminar in Oxford considering concern around nuclear safety in the defence sector.

Speakers include Nigel Day from Nukewatch, who will highlight a FOI reply from the Ministry of Defence outlining a considerable number of accidents of nuclear weapons convoys as they travel from Berkshire to Faslane.

NIS Research Manager Peter Burt will be looking at why the atomic weapon facilities at Aldermaston and Burghfield are in ‘special measures’ for a second year running.

The NFLA Secretary will consider the issues with moving radwaste from redundant submarines – two of the potential sites for the waste are the Berkshire weapon facilities. And ICAN UK Co-ordinator will look at the risks to cities of nuclear weapons. The flyer can be found on the NFLA website.

NFLA Scotland looking at the post Dounreay economy

The NFLA Scotland Forum holds its first meeting after the recent referendum in Perth at the end of October.

The meeting will include a special seminar on nuclear decommissioning, LA energy policy, radiation risks and nuclear rail and sea transport concerns.

A key part of the seminar will focus on how renewable jobs could replace nuclear jobs as the sector declines in Scotland.

The flyer can be found on the NFLA website and registration is open.
NFLA Welsh and Irish Forum seminars being prepared

The NFLA Welsh and All Ireland Forums are also planning for autumn seminars which will take place in November.

The NFLA Welsh Forum is planned for Cardiff and a key theme for it will look at radioactive waste matters. A speaker from Magnox has been invited to talk about how it is dealing with fuel element debris from nuclear power stations.

Independent consultant Tim Deere-Jones has been recruited by a number of groups to research environmental concerns over such material, and will speak on such matters.

NFLA supports International Day to Ban Nuclear Weapons

The NFLA have warmly welcomed the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. This was held with events around September 26th.

The day was instituted by the United Nations in a resolution passed on September 26th, 2013. ‘Unfold Zero’ was set up in May 2014 to provide a platform for governments, parliaments and civil society to mark this notable anniversary, and a special event was held in UN buildings in Geneva.

NFLA are one of 75 groups who are co-sponsoring the Geneva special event.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

NFLA SC, Town Hall, Manchester, 3rd October

UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Working Group, Town Hall, Manchester, 3rd October

NFLA English Forum, Oxford Town Hall, 24th October.


NFLA Welsh Forum, Cardiff County Hall, 7th November.

NFLA All Ireland Forum, City Hall, Dublin, 14th November (tbc).