



## **Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) Ireland Seminar**

### **New nuclear risks in the Irish Sea – submarines and new nuclear power stations? Issues for Irish Local Authorities**

**Date: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

**Location: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Dundalk, County Louth**

The NFLA All Ireland Forum Autumn 2015 Seminar considers issues of real importance to Councils in Ireland, particularly those around the coast. In early September it was confirmed by the UK Ministry of Defence that a British submarine had come into contact with the nets of the Ardglass based fishing trawler 'MV Karen' during an incident in April 2015. At the time, media speculation on both sides of the Irish Sea had suggested it had been a Russian submarine. The incident caused £10,000 (€13,800) damage to the boat and, but for the quick thinking of the crew in cutting the nets, could have led to fatalities. The incident took place just 18 miles off the coast of County Down. The MOD has agreed to pay compensation for the damage.

This incident raises issues over public safety – as this is not the first time such an incident has happened – environmental risk and territorial matters. It is not clear which submarine was involved in the incident and raises questions on whether nuclear-powered submarines regularly travel through the Irish Sea, rather than go across the North East Atlantic. The seminar will highlight NFLA's concerns in the area and how it is working with local MPs to raise the issue with the UK, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland Governments.

The seminar will also highlight the moves to speed up the development of new nuclear power stations on the Irish Sea coast at Wylfa in Anglesey and at Sellafield Moorside. The size of these proposed sites is significantly larger than currently operating nuclear power stations. There also remains real concern over safety, marine and environmental risk. What is being planned and what are the risks to Ireland?

NFLA has also recently been invited by the newly formed Environmental Protection Agency (which has taken over the functions of the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland) to join its Radiation Advisory Committee. As a result it can represent the concerns of local authorities and environmental groups over the health risks of low level radiation in the Irish Sea and wider concerns in the event of a major nuclear accident in the UK. The seminar will hear how it is representing such views at the highest level.

#### **FINAL PROGRAMME**

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| 10.30am | Registration, tea and coffee.   |
| 11.00am | Opening welcomes by Councillor Mark Dearey, Louth County Council and Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum.  |
| 11.05am | Ardglass trawler and submarine collision: safety, environmental and territorial issues – Tim Deere-Jones, independent marine environment consultant (confirmed)                                   |
| 11.35am | The political implications to the Ardglass trawler incident – Margaret Ritchie MP for South Down (confirmed)  |
| 12.00pm | New nuclear build at Sellafield and Wylfa – an environmental risk to the island of Ireland? Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary (confirmed)   |
| 12.25pm | NFLA's independent role in the new Environmental Protection Agency Radiation Advisory Committee – Dr Paul Dorfman, University College London and NFLA representative on the committee (confirmed) |
| 12.50pm | Panel discussion chaired by the Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum, Councillor Michael Carr, Newry, Mourne & Down Council.  |
| 1.15pm. | Seminar concludes.  |



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### Registration Details

The seminar is a free event open to all NFLA members and officers and local interested community and environmental groups across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

If you are planning to attend, could you please fill in the appropriate details and post, email or fax to the address at the bottom of this form:

Name	Authority / Group	Correspondence address (email or postal)

### Venue and local hotel details:

This seminar will be held in Dundalk Town Hall, which is in the centre of Dundalk on Crowe Street by Parnell Park. There is a regular train service to Dundalk on the main Belfast-Dublin train line and car parks at the nearby Marshes Shopping Centre.

A map of Dundalk Town Centre can be downloaded from the following website:  
<http://www.mytown.ie/dundalk./map> or <http://www.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&tab=wl>

There are 10 hotels in and around Dundalk. For further details see <http://www.booking.com/Dundalk-hotels>. The Imperial Hotel is the most central, with the Crowne Plaza and the Carrickdale Hotel also nearby and well recommended.

**Please return this form to: Sinead Trainor, NFLA Ireland Secretary -**  
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For more general queries please contact the NFLA UK and Ireland Secretary, Sean Morris –  
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