

# NFLA Policy Briefing No.192



Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Subject: Summary of key points and actions from the NFLA Steering Committee meeting, Manchester Central Library, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## 1. Introductions to the meeting

The NFLA Steering Committee Chair, Councillor David Blackburn, welcomed all to Manchester Central Library. The Chair was pleased to hear that there would be a very good attendance for the afternoon seminar with Mayors for Peace, which he encouraged members to attend. This seminar would consider the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons, the costs and risks of Trident replacement and the need to develop peace departments in central and local government.

## 2. National NFLA Forum meetings and connections with international partners

The NFLA Secretary provided an overview of the work of the four National NFLA Forums across the UK and Ireland.

### ***NFLA English Forum –***

The NFLA English Forum held a summer seminar on the 21<sup>st</sup> June in Leeds Town Hall. The meeting focused on the ‘climate emergency’ and was very well attended. It included a profile of the NFLA report on local authority low carbon action, the work of the Leeds Climate Change Trust and district heating case studies from Leeds City Council and Leicester City Council. The Forum is hosting a joint seminar following this Steering Committee meeting with the Mayors for Peace to commemorate International Peace Day. It is also planning a public meeting with the groups Stop Hinkley, BANNG and TASC in Colchester on the 26<sup>th</sup> October around concerns over new nuclear build in England. The Forum will also host the 2019 NFLA AGM on the 6<sup>th</sup> December in Manchester.

### ***NFLA Welsh Forum –***

The NFLA Welsh Forum held a well-attended autumn seminar on the 6<sup>th</sup> September in Swansea Civic Centre. The first part of the seminar considered local authority climate action with a presentation on Swansea’s policies from its Deputy Leader. The NFLA Secretary profiled its report on the climate emergency and Welsh Council action. Peter Burt from Nuclear Education Trust considered ‘Just Transition’ and defence diversification strategies in Wales and Tim Deere-Jones considered the radioactive waste debate in Wales. The presentations are on the NFLA website.

### ***NFLA Scotland Forum -***

The NFLA Scotland Forum will hold a business meeting and seminar at its autumn seminar in Dunfermline City Chambers on the 19<sup>th</sup> September. The NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor is providing members with a full briefing on Scottish nuclear and energy policy matters. The seminar will look at the NFLA’s September ‘climate emergency manifesto’ briefing and have a presentation on Fife Council’s low carbon projects. It will also consider the risks around nuclear weapon convoys and the Scottish Government’s ‘Preparedness Review’. Members are encouraged to attend it. The Forum will also meet later on the 14<sup>th</sup> November in Motherwell, and members are encouraged to attend the NFLA AGM in December.

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES:  
WORKING FOR A RENEWABLE, SAFE & RENEWABLE FUTURE**

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C/o Nuclear Policy, Level 5, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 3NY

Tel: 0161 234 3244 E-Mail: [s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk) Website: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>

### ***NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum -***

The first meeting of the relaunched NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum will be held in Dublin City Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> October. The meeting will explain the remit of the Forum and consider the impacts of a 'no deal' Brexit on Irish energy policy. It will also profile the NFLA's reports on issues around climate change and the island of Ireland. There are also two case studies from the Tipperary Energy Agency and Energy Cooperatives Ireland. Members are encouraged to attend.

### **Co-operation with international partner groupings -**

A joint letter of concern between the NFLA, the Vienna-led ***Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe (CNFE)*** and the Salzburg-led ***Alliance of Regions for Phasing out of Nuclear Power across Europe***, was sent to the Board of the European Investment Bank encouraging them to stop investing in new nuclear build. A joint media release was also issued with ***KIMO International*** over the potential marine environment consequences in dumping contaminated water from the stricken Fukushima disaster into the Pacific Ocean, which is currently being considered by Japanese agencies.

***Agreed: To note the report.***

### **3. Implications of the EU referendum vote on nuclear policy**

The NFLA Secretary gave a round-up of key nuclear policy issues around the UK potentially leaving the European Union (EU).

Members were all aware of the remarkable events around the UK Government's attempts to push through its plans to leave the EU. This had led to Parliament taking control of the Parliamentary agenda and pushing through a bill seeking to prevent a 'no deal' Brexit on the 31<sup>st</sup> October.

In terms of the UK leaving the Euratom nuclear safeguards arrangements as part of 'Brexit', the UK Government provided an update on this matter in early August which outlined the contingencies in place in the event of a deal to leave or a 'no deal' Brexit. While there seems reasonable steps in place for the Office of Nuclear Regulation to take up much of this new regime, it remains unclear under a 'no deal' scenario whether these will take place automatically.

The Steering Committee agreed to a recommendation for the Secretariat to develop a briefing looking at the nuclear / energy policy issues in a 'no deal' scenario to be published in October.

***Agreed: To note the report and to develop a Policy Briefing on the potential impacts of a 'no deal' Brexit on areas of NFLA policy.***

### **4. Nuclear new build**

The NFLA Secretary provided an update on issues around the proposed development of new nuclear power stations in England and Wales.

#### ***The financing of new nuclear -***

The UK Government has published a consultation seeking views on supporting a new financing model, called the Revenue Asset Base (RAB) model, to fund new nuclear reactors.

The Steering Committee approved a detailed response to this consultation which raised real concern that the RAB model would move most of the financial risk of new nuclear reactors from the utility company to the public purse. This could mean the taxpayer or electricity bill consumer effectively subsidising new nuclear projects to the tune of tens of billions of pounds. The Steering Committee welcomed the detail of the response and it will go on the NFLA website.

#### ***Developments with Small Modular Nuclear (SMR) Reactors -***

The NFLA Secretary was a co-author of a joint report of the Nuclear Consulting Group (NCG) and Professor Steve Thomas, Dr M V Ramana and Dr Paul Dorfman which considered the national and international prospects of SMR technology. The report argued that this technology was very much in its infancy and had considerable technical and financial barriers to overcome, which would require significant government finance to support. The Steering Committee welcomed this report and the cooperation with the well-respected NCG. The report is on the NFLA website.

### ***New build update –***

The concrete raft which would support the reactors for the Hinkley Point C site has now been completed, officially beginning the huge build process. EDF Energy though has real issues with its parallel site in Flamanville, which may impact on Hinkley Point C. The French nuclear regulator has instructed EDF to additional welding work which has meant a further 3 year delay to the project, which may see it not complete until 2022. This may impact on the Hinkley Point C ‘strike price’ contract that anticipated full work going ahead after Flamanville had been complete in late 2020.

A fourth stage public consultation on the proposed Sizewell C reactor site will conclude on the 27<sup>th</sup> September. The Steering Committee requested that the NFLA Secretariat respond to it. There has been a lot of local concern in Suffolk on the impact of the site on the local environment.

***Agreed: To note the report and welcome the consultation responses and report. The Secretariat to develop a response to the Sizewell C stage 4 consultation.***

## **5. Radioactive waste management**

The NFLA Secretary outlined the key issues in relation to its interaction with UK / Scottish / Welsh Government policies on radioactive waste management.

### ***UK / Welsh Government policy on finding a site for a deep waste repository -***

At the beginning 2019, the UK Government (supported by the Welsh Government) formally launched a new search for a community to host a geological disposal facility for the UK’s most hazardous nuclear waste. This included a letter from the Government to all Councils in England, Wales and Northern Ireland seeking them to consider ‘expressing an interest’ to host such a facility. The letter has created real anger and frustration amongst a lot of Councils, particularly in Wales and Northern Ireland, with many Councils passing resolutions publicly opposing such a facility.

In early July the UK Government published its National Policy Statement (NPS) for a deep underground repository. It explains the need for geological disposal of the UK’s Higher Activity Radioactive Waste (HAW) and provides planning guidance for RWM as the developer of such infrastructure. It will be used as the primary basis for examination by the Examining Authority (Planning Inspectorate) and by the Secretary of State, in considering development consent applications. It will still include a ‘volunteerist’ approach and require a host community to be supportive in order for such a development to go ahead.

### ***NDA Stakeholder Summit and wider update –***

The 2019 NDA National Stakeholder Summit took place at Coleg Menai, near Llangefni in Anglesey on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The NFLA Secretary and NFLA Chair attended it. The meeting included a useful interface with the NDA CEO David Peattie and the Director of Waste Management at RWM, Ann McCall. The NFLA Secretary asked the question of the NDA over whether funding shortfalls, as its commercial income drops, would be covered by the Government. David Peattie said the NDA was in intensive talks with the Government over this and remained optimistic core activity would stay on track.

The NDA has begun the process of preparing Strategy IV, its high-level Strategy that will guide the organisation from April 2021. A new Strategy is required every 5 years under the Energy Act 2004. A full consultation on the draft Strategy is expected to take place in September 2020 and run for 12 weeks. NFLA will engage through it via member involvement in NuLEAF and SCCORS meetings, and in direct engagement with the NDA.

### ***Sellafield update –***

The Steering Committee welcomed a number of milestones at the Sellafield site:

- Calder Hall, which was opened in 1956, was finally defueled during August 2019.
- Two vessels have now arrived on the site to commence work within the Box Encapsulation Plant. The plant will play an important role in Sellafield’s 100-year clean-up programme. It will take nuclear waste recovered from original waste plants and box it up so it can be safely stored in a modern building. The containers, manufactured by Bendall’s Engineering in Carlisle, will deal with effluents generated during the process.

- The tallest stack at the Sellafield site, which was 122 metres high, is now almost completely demolished.
- Staff at Sellafield have opened and repacked a historic plutonium can for the first time. The work is part of a £1 billion programme to address an identified degradation risk in a small proportion of the canisters, which date from about 50 years ago.

The Steering Committee noted much work still needs to be done on many other high hazard issues on the site.

### ***Dounreay and Scottish Low Level Waste Policy -***

An investigation has been launched after a lightning strike knocked out all power at Dounreay and its back-up supplies also failed. It meant that for about one hour there was no power for vital safety systems which monitor radiation and ventilation. The lightning strike was not a “direct hit” on the facility but somewhere else on the local network. Nuclear regulators said they believed “adequate contingency arrangements” were in place at the site and that it was “satisfied that these were implemented effectively”. The Scottish Greens MSP John Finnie said such incidents could have serious consequences. It is understood that once the DSRL investigation into the lightning strike has been completed, the ONR will review the evidence and then decide if follow-up action is required.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has published the finalised version of its nuclear sector plan. The plan presents SEPA’s vision for the sector. This includes reusing and recycling waste materials from nuclear power generation and decommissioning wherever possible. The NFLA response to the consultation on the draft of the SEPA Nuclear Sector Plan was sharply critical of this approach believing that it involves ‘diluting and dispersing’ radioactivity which should instead be concentrated and contained. NDA policy follows this trend as well.

### ***Update on NuLEAF and SCCORS –***

The LGA’s NuLEAF (Nuclear Legacy Advisory Forum for England and Wales) group met on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September in Manchester. Cllr Newman and the NFLA Secretary attended it. There was discussion on the NDA’s Transport Strategy, but this did not allow for the more important discussion over concerns around the transport of radioactive materials, which will now take place at its next meeting in London on the 11th December. Advisors for BEIS Avison Young presented on how they were supporting the development of ‘Planning Guidance for In-Situ Disposal of radioactive waste’.

COSLA’s SCCORS (Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances) group is developing further, following Renfrewshire Council taking on the role of Secretariat. The NFLA Secretary has had a discussion with both Co-Chairs to advise them of its work and the remit of SCCORS over the past decade, as well as consideration of its future budget.

***Agreed: To note the report.***

## **6. Alternatives to nuclear energy**

The NFLA Secretary gave an overview of activity in promoting local, decentralised and renewable forms of energy.

### ***NFLA report on climate emergency resolutions and local low carbon projects –***

The NFLA has developed in recent months three detailed reports on the move by over 200 Councils now to develop ‘climate emergency’ resolutions and advocate local authority low carbon action.

The latest report included a full analysis of the climate change issue on the island of Ireland, and how Councils should be given greater resource and powers to be involved in the promotion of local low carbon solutions. A draft new report was also put to the Steering Committee considering the issues of fairness and a new ‘manifesto’ for more dynamic action on the issue. The Steering Committee approved the report and welcomed the hard work of the Secretariat in providing best practice in this critical area of local government policy. These reports would be put on the NFLA website.

It was noted how concerns over the climate emergency had become one of the major issues in public policy. The UK, Scottish, Welsh and Irish Governments had all published new strategies which had varying levels of commitment and zero carbon targets. Whilst these targets are welcomed, there was

discussion in the Steering Committee that all central governments should be providing much more resource and powers to local government to deliver decentralised energy solutions.

### ***Fracking update –***

Whilst there remains a moratorium on fracking in Ireland, Scotland and Wales, the UK Government has been a strong advocate for it. This though has taken a major blow after further drilling by Cuadrilla at its site in Lancashire had to be curtailed after it breached earthquake tremor limits. Despite ongoing support from the UK Government, these problems for Cuadrilla are seriously putting off further financial support for such companies. The NFLA Secretariat will continue to monitor this issue.

***Agreed: To note the report and disseminate the NFLA briefings on the climate emergency and effective local energy action.***

## **7. Mayors for Peace update**

The NFLA Secretary outlined progress in NFLA's co-operation with the Mayors for Peace and its campaigns on the nuclear weapons and wider peace issues.

### ***International Mayors for Peace development –***

As of September 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, 7,789 towns and cities were members of Mayors for Peace.

The biannual Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace takes place in Hanover, Germany on the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> November. Manchester City Council will send Cllr Newman and the NFLA Secretary to this Conference. The meeting is important in allowing Mayors for Peace to respond to negative currents in the nuclear weapons issue, to clarify further the work in promoting more peaceful cities, and on preparing for core events in 2020, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons.

As well as the conference meetings, there will also be a special evening seminar with the ICAN CEO Beatrice Fihn and German Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee Member Jurgen Tritten the guest speakers. The second afternoon of the conference will allow discussion over a European structure of Mayors for Peace. The Secretary has been informed by the Catalan Vice President City of Granollers that, following successful election results and discussion with the Provincial Council of Barcelona, they are offering to jointly support a European Secretariat and an Executive Advisor for at least a four year period. A more detailed offer is expected to be published shortly and put to the Executive Conference for approval. The Steering Committee welcomed this development.

### ***Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorative events –***

The 74th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic weapon attacks were commemorated at special annual ceremonies in the two cities and in events around the world. With real and alarming changes in nuclear weapon policy around the world, what was notable in the two Peace Declarations of the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is how political they were, calling on a renewed effort at diplomacy and on the Japanese Government to sign the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty.

There were an increasing number of events held to commemorate the anniversaries around the UK and Ireland, and the Secretary thanks NFLA members that took part in it. Notable events took place in Manchester, London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Renfrewshire, Leeds, Bradford, Hebden Bridge, Dublin and at the Welsh Eisteddfod.

### ***ICAN Cities Appeal and Divestment resolutions –***

Manchester, Renfrewshire and Hebden Royd Town Council have passed resolutions to support the ICAN Cities Appeal and the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Edinburgh became the fourth Chapter member to pass a resolution in June. The Cities Appeal is now getting real traction in a number of countries, notably Norway, Germany, Australia, Belgium and the US. Notable cities to pass recent resolutions supporting it include Fremantle, Bruges, Vancouver, Grenoble, Hanover, Munich, Cologne, Trondheim, Cadiz and Salt Lake City. To date, over 100 towns and cities now formally support it. Internationally, 26 states have now ratified the Treaty – Bolivia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Kazakhstan being the most recent. When 50 states ratify the treaty it becomes part of international law. More signatories are expected on September 26th, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons at the United Nations.

A similar initiative has been developed on seeking resolutions to support Councils divesting pension fund investments out of companies involved in nuclear weapons. This arises from lobbying of NFLA Scotland members by the 'Don't Bank on the Bomb' Scotland Network. Their analysis had outlined the level of investment from Scottish Council Pension Funds in companies involved in the production of nuclear weapons at currently £184 million. This discussion had included the real difficulties and practicalities of encouraging divestment, including the fiduciary duty of seeking best value for fund members. A model resolution on this matter has been passed by Renfrewshire, West Dunbartonshire and Midlothian Councils. The Steering Committee welcomed these developments.

### ***UK and Ireland Chapter progress –***

A joint NFLA / Mayors for Peace Chapter meeting is being held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September in Manchester, after the Steering Committee meeting. The meeting will support International Peace Day and coincides with a national tour organised by the Kazakh Embassy and PNND of the artist and nuclear weapons campaigner Karipbek Kuyukov, who was affected by the Soviet nuclear tests and was born without arms. The Embassy are also supporting an exhibition of his works that will be in the Westminster Parliament and events there and the Scottish Parliament.

***Agreed: To note the report.***

## **8. Nuclear Weapons, defence nuclear safety and defence diversification update**

The NFLA Secretary provided an overview of various issues relating to the nuclear weapons disarmament debate and defence nuclear safety matters.

### ***House of Lords consultation on UK nuclear weapons policy –***

The House of Lords International Relations Select Committee inquiry into the effectiveness of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and other issues with the nuclear weapons diplomatic regime raised real concerns over the potential fragmenting of existing non-proliferation and arms control agreements. A new report by the British American Information Security Council (BASIC) encouraged the UK Government to move forward on the House of Lords recommendations.

The BASIC report suggested the UK Government should:

- Strengthen nuclear declaratory policy to make it clear the UK would never use nuclear weapons on non-nuclear weapon states.
- Engage in multilateral nuclear disarmament processes, such as a recent initiative started by the Swedish Government.
- The UK should consider and publicly advocate for a political declaration from the Nuclear Weapon States that rejects nuclear warfighting. This is an obvious place for UK leadership, as was reflected in the Committee's report

### ***The collapse of the INF Nuclear Weapon Treaty –***

In early August both the US and Russian Governments formally abrogated from the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, which had been signed in the 1980s, and which had led to considerable nuclear weapons disarmament across Europe. Both Governments blamed the other for defaulting on the Treaty, but the main motivation appears to be to allow both countries to restart testing and development of new short range missiles capable of being nuclear armed.

Shortly after the decision to abrogate the Treaty, the US military confirmed that it had tested a new short range cruise missile off the coast of California. A huge increase in the budget for the US military in this area has also been announced. All the existing nuclear weapon states are also spending large resources in updating their existing nuclear weapons programmes.

There is real concern that a significant accident has recently occurred, following a failed Russian test of its new short range missile programme. This accident led to the fatalities of five nuclear engineers and two military personnel and led to a radiation release on the 8th August. The incident has raised wider concerns that Russia is seeking to downplay the damage and the radiation that was released. On the 14th August Russia's weather service Rosgidromet admitted that radiation levels had spiked 16 times above normal, in Severodvinsk, a city 47km (29 miles) east of Nyonoksa in northern Russia. According to the official data, the radiation that reached Severodvinsk was not of a level to cause radiation sickness. A temporary evacuation of the area though did take place. There is further concern

that the hospital where those injured in the blast has been contaminated. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) reported that the two Russian radiation monitoring stations nearest to Nyonoksa had gone offline soon after the explosion. This revelation has fuelled suspicions that the radiation could have been heavier than officially reported.

The Steering Committee asked the NFLA Secretariat to monitor these deeply concerning matters.

#### ***North Korea and Iran nuclear weapons discussions –***

Despite an unexpected meeting by President Trump and the North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un in the 'de-militarised zone' at the Korean border, there remains stalemate over the North Korean nuclear weapons programme. While the regime has not conducted new tests on their nuclear weapons, it continues to test other missiles. The North Korean government object to the American demand to curtail its programme completely, rather saying it wishes increased international sanctions relief to take place within an ordered process. Diplomatic talks continue, but there remains limited expectation of progress.

Real alarm on Iran's nuclear programme continues after Iran announced it had pulled out of a further part of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) created between Iran and the EU, US, Russia and China; which President Trump pulled out of last year. Iran also announced in early September that it has started using more advanced centrifuges - these could accelerate the development of a potential atomic weapon if used for that purpose - in its latest attempt to pressure European powers to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal.

Iran has set the European signatories a 60-day deadline to find a solution to US sanctions, or it will escalate its nuclear programme further. Increased tensions in the Persian Gulf are exacerbating a real sense of crisis in the Middle East. The NFLA Secretariat will keep a close watching brief of both issues.

#### ***ONR puts further safety conditions on AWE at Aldermaston and Burghfield -***

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has said safety measures at the Atomic Weapons (AWE) Establishments at Aldermaston and Burghfield in Berkshire must improve in an updated warning published in mid-July. AWE has "failed to adequately address shortfalls" and safety improvement notices have been issued, demanding it improves "risk assessments for organisational change which may affect safety". The ONR added: "[We] do not consider that the issue poses an immediate risk to nuclear safety, but expect to see sustained improvements so that safety is not adversely affected in the future. ONR has been focusing on AWE's organisational change performance for some time." The regulator has previously sent an enforcement letter, carried out targeted inspections, and given directed advice and guidance.

#### ***Defence diversification progress and Just Transition movement –***

A telephone conference of the UK Arms Conversion Defence Diversification (ACDD) Steering Group took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> September. The meeting focused on the obvious crossovers between defence diversification and 'Just Transition', which is growing in interest first in Scotland and now in England and Wales, around a process to reskill fossil fuel workers and transfer them into the green jobs sector. As part of this process, members of the group are talking to both the Scottish and Welsh Governments to consider the possibility of them creating Defence Diversification bodies to complement work on 'Just Transition'.

#### ***Agreed: To note the report***

### **9. Nuclear health and safety issues**

The NFLA Secretary provided a report on progress with civil nuclear safety and health issues, which included a brief update of its report of concern on nuclear plant life extensions.

#### ***Issues with the Hunterston B reactor –***

For some time now, the NFLA has been concerned about an increased number of keyway root cracks in graphite bricks that surround the Hunterston B nuclear reactor 3, and to a slightly lesser extent, Reactor 4. This is particularly pressing as it has been reported that there have been 377 keyway route cracks found on reactor 3, with around 210 for Reactor 4. The NFLA Secretary and Dr Ian

Fairlie met with the Chief Nuclear Inspector Donald Urquhart and lead inspector for the Hunterston B, Steve Harrison, in early July to discuss their progress with EDF in assessing the safety of the two reactors.

In late August, the Deputy Chief Inspector directly informed the NFLA Secretary that the information provided by EDF was sufficient to allow a temporary restart of Reactor 4 of four months. Its future operation beyond this restart would then be linked in with the safety case for Reactor 3, which ONR have started to consider. The ONR have also started to discuss with EDF the long-term closure plan for Hunterston B and the other AGR reactors, which are all due to close on current plans within the next 3 – 10 years.

The NFLA are pleased with this increased level of scrutiny on the ONR and EDF that this process has allowed and the Secretariat will closely monitor the issue over the next few months. The NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor is attending a meeting of the Hunterston SSG, and will report on that matter for the upcoming NFLA Scotland meeting.

#### ***Fukushima update –***

One of the largest and most difficult issues that exists with the clean-up and remediation of the stricken Fukushima Daiichi is what to do with the huge amount of radioactively contaminated water used to cool down the reactors. As of August there are over 1.1 million tonnes of contaminated water on the site in over a thousand storage tanks. With the growing lack of space on the site, there are concerns that by 2022 there will not be enough space to maintain this water.

There has been a long discussion in Japan as to what to do with this water, with the Japanese Nuclear Regulation Agency suggesting that the water should be slowly dumped into the Pacific Ocean. The Japanese Government has set up an Expert Panel to determine its future action on this matter, which is still deliberating. Anti-nuclear, environmental and fishing groups continue to call on TEPCO and governing agencies to find an alternative solution to dumping into the sea. NFLA and KIMO International issued a joint media release to reiterate this view. The Steering Committee welcomed the media release.

***Agreed: To note the report.***

### **10. Nuclear emergency planning, nuclear security and nuclear materials transportation**

The NFLA Secretary provided a report of work on progress with issues around nuclear security, nuclear emergency planning and nuclear transportation.

#### ***Changes to UK nuclear emergency planning regulations -***

The NFLA Secretary has developed a briefing outlining the major changes and the concerns of the NFLA and the wider NGO community to changes to nuclear emergency planning regulations. Part of this briefing was put forward at the June BEIS NGO Forum meeting, and it led to some useful interaction with Government nuclear emergency planning staff. These staff have been in touch with the NFLA Secretary seeking further dialogue. A part of that future dialogue will be around the content of a national nuclear emergency plan. The ONR are also expected to publish their code of best practice shortly, which the NFLA Secretary will review. Member authorities are encouraged to disseminate the NFLA briefing.

#### ***Scottish Government Preparedness Review on nuclear weapon road convoys -***

A 'Preparedness Review' was developed for the Scottish Government by senior police and fire officers on the safety of road convoys. The review suggested that the emergency services and local authorities were largely ready to deal with an emergency incident affecting a convoy. However, there were quite a considerable number of gaps identified in the report. These issues are being considered at the NFLA Scotland Forum meeting in Dunfermline.

***Agreed: To note the report.***

### **11. Next NFLA Steering Committee meeting**

The next NFLA Steering Committee meeting will take place in the ***Central Library, Manchester on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019.*** It will also include the NFLA AGM and Annual Policy Seminar.