News from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA)

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Useful website Links:

NFLA: http://www.nuclearpolicy.info

Mayors for Peace: http://www.mayorsforpeace.org
2020 Vision: http://www.bimointernational.org
KIMO: http://www.kimointernational.org

ICAN-UK: http://www.ican-uk.org



Manchester Mayors for Peace civic reception group photograph

Radwaste – the democratic deficit

The NFLA Chair, NFLA other Secretary and NFLA members have attended Government workshops over its consultation on UK nuclear waste policy.

Two workshops – one for local government and one for NGO critics of UK policy - were held in London. Regional seminars were also held

around England and Wales (Scottish policy on waste is different).

A full NFLA response reflecting the comments made in its Policy Briefing is going to the Government prior to its December 5th deadline.

The NFLA response concentrates on the changes to the demo-

critic oversight of a deep underground repository project.

It also raises real concerns around little or no detail on long-term interim storage, the need for national geological screening and alternatives to a 'GDF'.

The NFLA Policy briefing is on its website.

Hinkley C debate turns to European Commission

The NFLA Secretariat is working with its key partner cities in Europe as the next part of the challenge to UK new nuclear build goes to the EU's Commission.

In October, the UK Government and EDF announced an outline agreement of price guarantees for 2 new nuclear reactors at Hinkley Point.

Despite saying the deal involves no new public subsidies to EDF; it has to be approved by the EU as a legal form of state aid.

NFLA are consulting with the Vienna led 'Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe' to lobby several national governments and the Commission to challenge this request. NFLA have signed a joint Energy Fair letter to the EU Commission opposed to the use of public subsides for new build.

A legal challenge to the Hinkley decision by the Irish National Trust is being considered in early December.

EDF have confirmed its final decision to invest in the project will be made some time later in 2014.

NFLA media releases November 2013: (On NFLA website.)

- NFLA welcomes Iran nuclear weapons agreement
- NFLA seminar on contaminated metals
- NFLA calls on Irish Environment committees to call independent experts on RPII
- Lord Mayor of Manchester hosts Mayors for Peace reception
- NFLA calls on NDA to address issues at Sellafield



Lord Mayor of Manchester Cllr Naeem ul Hassan with a paper crane garland from Hiroshima (courtesy Demotix.com)



Former Lord Mayors Mark Hackett and Afzal Khan with current Lord Mayor Naeem ul Hassan present M4P Ambassadorship to Salahuddin Choudhry in Manchester Town Hall

NFLA English Forum considers contaminated metal issues

The NFLA English Forum held an informative seminar in Rotherham considering issues around contaminated metals.

Speakers included Steve Chandler from the Environment Agency, who outlined its project 'Reducing Risks from Radioactive Sources'. Craig Ashton from the NDA's Low Level Waste Repository provided an overview of the NDA's policy for decontaminating metals.

Independent consultant Tim Deere-Jones outlined research he had undertaken for the NFLA raising concerns over the transporting and recycling of such materials to Sweden.

There was a very useful and robust discussion on the issue and NFLA will conduct more research for a further policy briefing.

The presentations have been placed on the NFLA website.

NFLA Secretary invited to speak at EU conference

The NFLA Secretary has been invited to speak at a European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) Conference on crisis communications at civil nuclear sites in the EU.

The invitation to speak comes after the EESC were notified of the NFLA's reports and seminars on nuclear emergency planning.

The NFLA Secretary has taken part in a detailed EESC inquiry. This is considering concerns of groups like the NFLA in how to deal with evacuating the public after a major nuclear incident similar to the Fukushima disaster.

The Conference will be held in February in Brussels. The NFLA Secretary is speaking in a session which will include a speaker from the Finnish nuclear regulator and EDF.

The EESC Conference provides a valuable opportunity for NFLA to influence policy.

Cardiff ready for 2013 NFLA AGM & Annual Policy Seminar

A good audience for the 2013 NFLA AGM and Annual Policy Seminar in Cardiff County Hall on the 6th December is expected.

The AGM brings all four

NFLA Forums together. A Steering Committee meeting is also being held.

A joint NFLA Welsh Forum / NFLA AGM Seminar includes three expert speakers - David Lowry, Paul Flynn MP and Rebecca Johnson (see text box below).

The seminar is open to non NFLA members and relevant NGOs.

NFLA letters to media, November 2013: (emailed to members)

- The imperative is for a new decentralised energy revolution
- The German British way forward for future energy policy?
- An Taisce should be congratulated legal challenge to Hinkley new build
- Our MPs need to look abroad for a lesson on benefits of renewable energy

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 - 3.30pm2013 NFLA Annual **Policy Seminar**

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

Manchester Mayors for Peace civic reception / NET response

The Lord Mayor Manchester, who is a Vice President of Mayors for Peace, held a civic reception as part of his commitment to 5,834 member towns and cities group.

The reception allowed for the conferment of Salahuddin Choudhry as a Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Ambassador and the receiving of peace crane garlands from CND.

Mr Choudhry is a former Pakistan Consul-General to the UK and has many diplomatic of years experience at the UN.

The peace cranes were given to CND by the 'Gensuyiko' Hiroshima group following their 2013 Tokyo - Hiroshima peace walk. They will be given out to schools.

The NFLA has also responded to a NET study on UK nuclear weapons policy. This useful response can be found on the NFLA website.

Red Cross agrees on campaign to ban nuclear weapons

The NFLA welcomes a unanimous decision made in Australia by the International Red Cross to establish a four year campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

This follows on from its 2012 resolution to call for nuclear weapons abolition and contains concrete measures to follow up on this policy.

The four year action plans involves engaging in the raising of awareness and active dialogue with the public, scientists, health professionals and decisionmakers.

The ICRC Action Plan

promotes support from national Red Cross groups, to co-operate on regional conferences and lobbying at the UN level.

NFLA and the Mayors for Peace will both benefit from this decision and will look to develop national and international links.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

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

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

NFLA Steering Committee, 31st January, Manchester Town Hall.

Dates of NFLA Forum meetings in early 2014 will be announced shortly.

The NFLA December 2013 Newsletter and Annual Newsletter will be issued on the 17th December.