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Contents:

UK General Election	1
Ypres 100 Conference	1
NPT Review Conference	2
EPR safety fears	2
NFLA Scotland seminar	2
NFLA Media releases	2
NFLA LLW response	3
Nuclear EP briefing	3
NFLA letters to the media	3
Forthcoming meetings	3

Useful website / partner links:

NFLA: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
CNFE: <http://www.cnfe.eu>
Mayors for Peace: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
2020 Vision: <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>
KIMO: <http://www.kimointernational.org>
ICAN-UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>



NFLA Chair Councillor Mark Hackett at the Ypres Peace Memorial and 'Making Peace' exhibition.

UK election – what next for nuclear?

As politicians from all of the UK's political parties campaign in one of the closest general elections in years, big nuclear policy questions remain for whoever wins.

In nuclear power, the next Government has to tackle the real financial, legal and technical problems with new nuclear power stations.

NFLA believe the costs, risks and complexities of new nuclear are too high, and an alternative energy policy is required.

NFLA will also be calling for barriers to be lifted for local Councils in developing LA energy companies, so that they can play an important role in delivering a low carbon energy future.

In nuclear weapons policy, whilst the world gets involved in the May Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Conference, the next Government will have to determine if it wishes to replace and renew a new programme of Trident submarines. NFLA will work with MPs of all parties to advocate a 'non nuclear' approach away from such policies.

NFLA represented at 'Ypres 100' Conference on WMD

The NFLA Chair and NFLA Secretary, on behalf of Manchester City Council, were amongst more than 200 delegates for a major conference in Ypres, Belgium on the centenary of the first use of chemical weapons.

The conference was titled 'A Century of Weapons of Mass Des-

truction: Enough!'

It brought together expert speakers from around the world to talk about ways civil society can more effectively call for the end of use for all types of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The NFLA Chair was asked to give the exultation prior to the 'Last Post' on April 22nd,

at the Menin Gate in Ypres, on the exact date of the first use of chemical weapons in the First World War in April 1915.

A Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Board meeting was also held. A full report of the conference is being developed and will be published shortly.

NFLA media releases
April 2015:
(On NFLA website.)

- Serious new safety issues for Areva's EPR design at Flamanville suggest yet more delays for Hinkley C
- As Sellafield THORP plants reaches its 21st birthday, its time to reflect on these nuclear policy mistakes
- NFLA submit response to Governments on LLW strategy

STOP PRESS!
EURO COMMISSION
DECISION ON
HINKLEY C
PUBLISHED – LEGAL
CHALLENGES NOW
EXPECTED

At the end of April, the European Commission finally published in full their decision document to approve the Hinkley C state aid application.

Interested parties now have two months to challenge the decision. Both the Austrian and the Luxembourg national governments confirmed a legal challenge would be submitted shortly. Other legal challenges are also expected.

The world goes to the UN to discuss nuclear disarmament

Starting in late April, and through May, is the 9th UN Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference. This takes place at UN HQ in New York.

The 5-yearly review is the primary forum where nuclear weapon & non-nuclear weapon states discuss ways to

bring about global nuclear disarmament.

The Conference comes just after interim agreement with Iran over its nuclear programme was agreed upon.

159 states have supported Austria's 'pledge' to find ways to fill the legal gap for the

prohibition & elimination of nuclear weapons.

A large Mayors for Peace & civil society presence is in New York. Led by the Mayors of Hiroshima Nagasaki, as well as many 'hibakuska' survivors of the 1945 bombs, a clarion call for a Nuclear Weapons Convention is being made.

Safety issues for Areva's EPR in France could affect Hinkley

Major question marks over the viability of Areva's EPR reactor design – which is planned for Hinkley C - have emerged at the Flamanville site in France.

The French nuclear regulator ASN published a report of its findings of fabrication defects on the

upper and lower heads of reactor pressure vessels (RPVs) from the Flamanville 3 reactor.

The steel being used in these RPVs has been found to contain too much carbon, which can weaken its structure and breaches safety rules. It is expected to take Areva substantial

time to resolve, and lengthen the time of its final construction.

As the Hinkley Point C design is of the exact same type, this adds further complications to a project that is already struggling for finance. A NFLA media release on this issue can be found on its website.

NFLA Scotland Trident seminar programme agreed

The first post-election NFLA meeting takes place in Paisley in June.

Along with the usual NFLA Scotland business meeting, a NFLA special seminar considering the

forthcoming debate on Trident replacement & nuclear weapons has been developed.

It is hoped to have speakers from the trade unions, CND, PNND and

Nukewatch to consider some of the issues around UK nuclear weapons policy.

A flyer will be issued after the elections in early May.

**NFLA letters to media,
April 2015:
(emailed to members)**

- Highland Council survey is welcome as the radium risk from ex-MOD sites remains real
- Better economic benefits for new nuclear or renewables in Wales?
- The key to Scottish low carbon policy is energy storage and support Council energy policies



Mayors for Peace Secretary General Komizo gives an account of the Hiroshima bombings at the Ypres 100 Conference.



The Canadian centenary commemoration of the first use of chemical weapons in war, Statue of the Brooding Soldier in Langemark, Ypres Salient, 22nd April.

NFLA submits low level waste strategy response

The NFLA Secretariat has submitted its full response to the Joint Governments consultation on the management of low level waste (LLW) around the UK.

NFLA argue low level waste management in the UK is in crisis. The total amount of forecasted levels of

waste is far greater than the storage capacity that is available for them.

The NFLA submission raises concern over the misuse of the waste hierarchy and long-term environmental changes putting at risk some nuclear sites and the UK's Low Level Waste

Repository in Cumbria.

The NFLA submission proposes an alternate LLW strategy based on concentration and containment rather than dilution and dispersal of waste. No new waste should also be created. The response is on the NFLA website as a Radwaste Briefing.

NFLA developing briefing on nuclear emergency planning

The NFLA Secretary is developing a detailed briefing that considers nuclear emergency planning arrangements four years after the Fukushima disaster.

The briefing starts with a full consideration of the ongoing problems in cleaning-up the Fukushima site and learning

points for LA emergency planners from the accident.

The focus for this report comes from a Japanese NGO report on the many issues that have arisen from the evacuation of over 160,000 people & how to deal with the radioactive waste burden from the reactor leaks.

The briefing will also extrapolate some of these issues for the UK nuclear context. The UK nuclear regulator is amending emergency planning zones for all UK nuclear sites at present – what does this mean in the event of a major incident? The briefing will be published shortly.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

LGA NuLEAF meeting, LGA House, London, 14th May.

ONR NGO Forum, Manchester, 1st June.

NFLA Scotland Forum, Renfrewshire House, Paisley, 5th June.

NFLA Steering Committee, Manchester Town Hall, 19th June.

UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts & Leaders for Peace Chapter meeting, Manchester Town Hall, 19th June.

Other NFLA Forum dates will follow after discussions with NFLA Chairs in the English, All Ireland and Welsh Forums.