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Websites / partner links:

NFLA:
<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
(Also links to Facebook & Twitter)

CNFE: <http://www.cnfe.eu>
Mayors for Peace globally and in Europe:
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.eu>

KIMO:
<http://www.kimointernational.org>

ICAN: <http://www.icanw.org>
ICAN UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>



Under a Welsh sky, anti-nuclear organisations gather outside the former Wylfa nuclear power station, where there are plans to install an SMR, for a rally after a successful 10-day march from Trawsfynydd led by CND Cymru young activists .

Change at the top, but less trust in Prime Minister Liz Truss

Boris Johnson may be far from a fond memory for anti-nuclear activists, but incomer Liz Truss and her Ministers have not wasted any time seeking popularity in their recent pronouncements over future energy policy.

One of Johnson's last acts in office was an appearance at Sizewell to urge the new Truss Government to 'go big, go nuclear, go Sizewell' re-pledging £700 million (of already committed) public money to the development, whilst urging the public to buy a new kettle to save £20 on their energy bill!

Kwasi Kwarteng, former energy minister now anointed Chancellor, has made no secret of his support for Sizewell and he has swiftly seized the mantle of chief sponsor of new nuclear for the UK.

In a much criticised speech in which he outlined his Growth Plan, much was made of his announcements to cut the top rate of income tax and reverse the National Insurance hike introduced by his predecessor Rishi Sunak, but hidden amongst the pages of the

accompanying document penned by the Whitehall mandarins at HM Treasury are plans to deregulate the nuclear industry and emasculate public protests.

Treasury mandarins have identified Hinkley Point C and Sizewell C as amongst the large infrastructure projects earmarked to be fast-tracked by the end of next year by creating a bonfire of existing regulations covering protection of the natural environment and the rights and opportunity of the public and other stakeholders to object.

According to departmental officials new legislation will be brought forward to 'address barriers by reducing unnecessary burdens to speed-up the delivery of much-needed infrastructure'.

Councillor David Blackburn, Chair of the NFLA Steering Committee, said of the plans:

"The government intends to deregulate the oversight of large projects, such as new nuclear.

"These retrograde steps will mean less protection for wildlife and our environment and less consideration for the views of local people and their elected representatives.

"Put bluntly it is a developers' charter which – in the case of nuclear – is wholly inappropriate when a nuclear plant has such a massive adverse impact upon neighbouring wildlife habitats and the fortunes of local communities, and when in the longer-term it also presents a decommissioning headache."

The Prime Minister has also not endeared herself to many sections of the electorate by immediately reauthorising the recommencement of fracking – something even Mr Johnson was opposed to.

And new Energy Secretary, Jacob Rees-Mogg, in one of his first utterances, called for oil and gas producers to be able to keep their profits "so they get every last drop out of the North Sea". Frightening.

NFLA media releases,
September 2022:
(On website)

- Save the fish: Nuclear Free Local Authorities call for acoustic deterrent at Sizewell C – 28 Sept
- Chancellor plots to railroad through new nuclear plants by the end of 2023 – 27 Sept
- Magnificent Seven pledge to make world nuclear weapon free – 23 Sept
- NFLA seeks assurance over enhanced compensation provision for nuclear accidents – 22 Sept
- Beating Retreat at Bradwell? – 20 Sept
- NFLAs call upon UN Secretary General to prevent catastrophe at Ukraine nuclear plant – 15 Sept
- Getting the conversation going: new stakeholder forum launched at Edinburgh summit – 12 Sept
- NFLA calls on Prime Minister Truss to tax profiteering energy companies to reduce bills and insulate cold homes – 7 Sept
- Safety a 'top priority' for anti-nuclear groups seeking answers on nuclear rail transport – 5 Sept
- 'Go nuclear, go large': out-of-touch Johnson compares ordering Sizewell C to French Fries – 2 Sept
- Tore and Tim ride a tandem: Bike for Peace rides in to see Mayor of Rochdale – 2 Sept

Fish must not have their chips: NFLA backs (*fish*) deterrence

Normally the NFLA does not back nuclear 'deterrence', but when it comes to saving fish it's a different story.

The NFLA gave one cheer to Environment Secretary George Eustace MP who recently upheld the decision of his inspector requiring EDF Energy to install an acoustic fish deterrent at Hinkley Point C. The company had appealed the decision.

If granted, it would have

meant the death of millions of fish drawn into the water intake pipes the plant uses to draw in vast amounts of seawater for cooling.

EDF Energy may now either seek a judicial review, comply and install the deterrent or pay millions of pounds for any damage to the marine environment.

The next battleground is Sizewell C and NFLA Chair Cllr David Blackburn has just taken the opportunity to respond to a consultation by

the Environment Agency on permitting for the site to demand an acoustic deterrent there also.

He said: '*The EPR reactors proposed for Sizewell C will be the same as those proposed for Hinkley Point C. Both sites will be heavily reliant upon sucking in vast amounts of seawater to cool the plant and, without an acoustic deterrent at Sizewell C, the impact on local sea life is likely to be far more destructive.*'

Time to pay up: NFLA seeks reassurance over nuclear insurance

New rules increasing the financial compensation payable by the nuclear industry in the event of an accident have been welcomed by the Nuclear Free Local Authorities.

Under amendments to the Paris Convention approved by Britain, nuclear operators in the UK will be liable to pay up to €700 million in compensation in the event of an accident with this figure increasing by a further €100 million in

each of the next five years.

Governments can reduce the liability for nuclear transport and 'low risk' operations.

In the UK, the impact will be felt by EDF Energy, which operates Britain's nuclear power plants, and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, with responsibility for transporting nuclear materials.

Councillor David Blackburn has written to energy

minister Lord Callanan seeking reassurance that nuclear operators will be required to take out suitable insurance with private sector providers or make some other financial provision to pay compensation in respect of an accident.

He is particularly concerned that ministers may attempt to subsidise the industry by underwriting insurance provision or by downgrading their operations to 'low risk' to reduce their liability.

NFLAs call on new PM to tackle energy crisis

Liz Truss hadn't long got her feet under the table before an email landed in her PM in-tray from the NFLA calling for a windfall tax on the obscene profits made by energy companies to pay for urgent action to

to tackle the energy crisis.

Instead of government plans to raise money on the markets to subsidise bills, money all taxpayers will ultimately have to repay with interest, the NFLA wanted companies who have profiteered from the crisis to shoulder the burden.

The NFLA believes the proceeds of a Windfall Tax should be used to reduce the bills of those on a low income and the vulnerable in our society and to invest in an emergency insulation and energy efficiency programme to make Britain's cold and damp homes cheaper to heat with less carbon emissions.

Magnificent Seven pledge to make world nuclear weapon free

On the eve of the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, seven nations signed or ratified a ground-breaking treaty to make the world nuclear weapon free.

In defiance of the pervading pessimism generated by the recent nuclear threats by President Putin, the 'Magnificent Seven', as NFLA Chair Councillor David Blackburn has called them, purposefully choose to make a pledge to peace at the UN headquarters affirming their support for the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. 91 states have so far signed the Treaty and 68 have ratified it.

Councillor Blackburn said: *"Despite the resurgence of a new Cold War between Russia and China on the one hand and the United States and its NATO allies on the other, it should be remembered that only nine nations in the world possess nuclear weapons and that most states continue to work, and pray, for a nuclear weapon free world."*

In December 2013, the UN declared 26 September the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and its aim is 'to further the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons through enhancing public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons'.

Getting the conversation going in Edinburgh

A new forum was launched with a signing ceremony at the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) 's Stakeholder Summit held in the Scottish capital on 7-8 September.

Anti-nuclear groups with the support of the NFLA reapproached the NDA in February requesting that a new Forum be established, now the organisation has been restructured. Previous contact had been made before Covid-19, but this

halted when the pandemic struck.

Now the new structure will meet three times a year, either online or in person, to discuss the goings-on in three NDA divisions (Sellafield, Magnox/Dounreay, and Nuclear Transport Services).

Meetings are likely to be 'lively' representatives from campaign groups opposed to local civil nuclear power projects can question and

challenge senior nuclear industry figures. Waste issues are already addressed in a parallel Forum.

Commenting NFLA Secretary, Richard Outram, who participated in the signing, said:

The Edinburgh summit had the strapline, 'Keeping the conversation going', but for anti-nuclear groups this development represents an opportunity to 'Get the conversation going' with the NDA in new areas of the organisation's work".

Getting safety on track

The NFLA has joined the Close Capenhurst Campaign, Highlands against Nuclear Transport (HANT) and Radiation Free Lakeland in writing to Direct Rail Services, a division of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, about safety issues in nuclear rail transport in the UK.

For many years, Close Capenhurst, HANT, and Radiation Free Lakeland have raised issues of concern relating to the rail transportation of nuclear fuel and nuclear waste, particularly in the North-West of England and in Scotland.

The NFLA published its own analysis of nuclear rail transport in June 2021.

Although nuclear rail transport has a good record, the hazardous nature of the cargoes carried, and the consequences of any accident, means that all four organisations have resolved to work together to raise questions about safety standards and accident preparedness in the industry.

Now these campaign groups have sent a joint question set to Direct Rail Services (DRS) and anticipate a meeting to discuss the issues soon.



Pedal power for peace

Mayors across the North of England were able to meet some special guests from Bike for Peace recently as founder Tore Naerland and his Norwegian compatriots called in at town halls in Leeds, Skipton, Carnforth, Preston, Rochdale and Bradford.

Tore who is partially sighted rode on the back of tandem with co-cyclist Tim Devereux from Leeds. Bike for Peace was founded 45 years ago to take the message of peace out to communities, promote cycling and campaign for better opportunities for people with disabilities.

Mayors for Peace and NFLA Secretary, Richard Outram, was pleased to meet with Tore and his fellow cyclists in Rochdale.

