



NFLA Newsletter

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Councillor Sue Lent

NFLA Policy Advisor
Pete Roche

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>

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**On 23 Feb, Welsh activists
celebrated the 40th
anniversary of the Nuclear
Free Wales Declaration.**

**Photo of the banner taken
to Greenham Common C/o
CND Cymru**



Minister urged to 'think well over Sizewell'

NFLA Chair Cllr David Blackburn hopes that the Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng MP will 'think well' before deciding on the Sizewell C development. The Planning Inspectorate has just made its recommendation to the Minister.

Cllr Blackburn urges the Minister to say 'no':
"The proposed EPR reactor design has a questionable safety record, with a recent serious accident at a Chinese EPR plant last summer revealing that the design may be fatally flawed; similar projects in France and Finland have been plagued by long delays or delivered vastly over

budget; the development cannot go ahead without massive public subsidy; its electricity will cost vastly more than renewables: the operator of the plant, EDF, is in real financial difficulties; and nuclear is not benign, it carries the risk of accidents, damage to the environment, and the hazards of nuclear waste"

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Reactor approval does not justify Bradwell go-ahead

Despite recent approval by British nuclear regulators of a new Chinese reactor, the NFLA believes this in no way justifies giving the go-ahead to the project at Bradwell B.

The Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has just granted Generic Design Assessment approval to the Chinese Hualong UK HPR1000 reactor for potential use in a future new power station at Bradwell in Essex, but

Chinese investors face increasing hostility from government ministers, many legal and financial hurdles, geological challenges with the site, and hardening local opposition before any development can proceed.

The China General Nuclear Power Group CGN owns 66.5% of the Bradwell B project and a 20% stake in Sizewell C, but the UK Government is now looking to exclude Chinese investment in nuclear plants, and has

recently passed the National Security and Investment Act in order to do so.

NFLA Chair, Cllr David Blackburn, said: *"This proposal is in its infancy and it is our hope that, despite the ONR giving the green light to the reactor, the other challenges will prevent the Chinese, or indeed any other investor, from pursuing a nuclear development at Bradwell."*

NFLA media releases,**Feb 2022:****(On NFLA website)**

- On shaky ground? Latest planning application at Sizewell – 26 Feb.
- NFLA Chair urges Minister to 'Think well over Sizewell' – 25 Feb.
- Time for Wales to celebrate 40th anniversary of being nuclear-free – 22 Feb.
- Decade of defueling looms for Dungeness – 17 Feb.
- 'Skegross' not 'so bracing' – 16 Feb.
- Fusion delusion no answer to climate emergency or cost-of-living crisis – 11 Feb.
- Reactor approval does not justify Bradwell go-ahead – 9 Feb.
- Peace Tree in Leeds – 7 Feb.
- NFLA backs MP on government support after Torness closure – 3 Feb.
- NFLA demands deadly plutonium stockpile be placed 'out of use' – 3 Feb.
- Swedish drones at nuclear plants - 2 Feb.
- NFLA seeks jobs for locals on nuclear decommissioning work – 1 Feb.
- NFLA endorses call for real green energy on nuclear sites – 31 Jan.

NFLA Briefings, Feb 2022**(on NFLA website)**

- No 228: Developments and Progress Report
- No 227: The potential impact of the conflict in Ukraine on nuclear power plants and nuclear escalation
- Nos 226, 226a, 226b: Outcomes from Feb steering committee and AGM

Protestors fight Hinkley mud-dumping in court

The Save the Severn Estuary coalition of NGOs, activists and scientists are about to go to the High Court seeking to quash a decision by the Marine Management Organisation to allow EDF to dump contaminated mud from Hinkley Point C in the Severn Estuary near Portishead. The mud comes from building a water intake for the new power station which will

kill millions more fish when operational.

Campaigners claim that the contaminated mud will spread on the strong tidal currents all around the Estuary, ending up on beaches and endangering the local wildlife and the population of Avonmouth, Bristol, Newport, Cardiff, and Barry.

The case for a judicial review is being heard

from 8-10th March.

Campaigners are seeking financial support to raise the estimated £60,000 in legal costs through a crowdfunding drive.

A video showing the mud dumping can be seen at: <https://vimeo.com/680161449/cd0cbffbb8>

The appeal for crowdfunding can be found at <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/save-the-severn-estuary/>

Fusion delusion no answer to climate or energy crisis

Recent claims of a major 'breakthrough' in fusion energy downplays the fact that the latest experiment lasted five seconds and only produced enough power to boil 60 kettles!

The NFLA is sceptical of any claims that fusion will make any difference to the UK's need to produce green sustainable power anytime soon.

Fusion is a complex technology to master. The interior of the reactor must be superheated to 100 million degrees C requiring huge amounts of power. The reaction also requires intricate cooling and containment systems that must work perfectly at all times to keep the system safe.

"Fusion has since the Second World War been heralded as the next big evolutionary development

in our energy supply, and countless billions have been invested in this illusionary technology", said NFLA Chair Cllr David Blackburn.

Professor of Energy Policy Stephen Thomas of Greenwich University put it more bluntly: "It has always been said that fusion breakthroughs occur when there is a need for more public funding."

Dungeness defueling represents headache for UK taxpayers

A safety case for defueling a former nuclear power station in Kent is eight months late and the task could take up a decade to complete – the two latest set-backs in the decades-long disaster that is the Dungeness plant uncovered by the NFLA.

Ordered in 1965, with an expected five-year construction timeline, the plant was only fully operational two decades later at four times the original cost.

After parts 'corroded to an unacceptable condition'

were discovered in a 2018 inspection the plant closed, never to reopen.

Now the NFLA has discovered that, because of its unique design, defueling the plant could take up to 10 years, rather than the usual 3-4, costing the British taxpayer an extra £0.5-1.0 billion!

Forthcoming dates or meetings of interest to NFLA members

**Joint Webinar, CND-NFLA-Nukewatch on nuclear transport
Thurs 3 March 6.30-7.30pm.**

'Nuclear convoys: did you know that nuclear warheads could be driving through your town?'

Speakers include the NFLA Steering Committee Chair.

The link to register is here:

<https://cnduk.org/events/nuclear-convoys-did-you-know-that-nuclear-warheads-could-be-driving-through-your-town/>

**'Nuclear power: not fit for purpose?' webinar - 14 March 7pm.
Organised by CND's TU Advisory Group**

Nuclear power is increasingly marketed as part of the solution to the climate crisis and there is considerable support for it from trade unions. Infact it's dirty, dangerous, expensive, won't help with our climate problems, and there are far more jobs in renewables.

NFLA advisor Dr Paul Dorfman will brief us on this subject.

Register at
<https://cnduk.org/events/nuclear-power-not-fit-for-purpose-cnd-webinar/>

Test veterans speak out for justice at historic conference

On Feb 19, Manchester hosted a historic international conference to highlight the disgraceful failure by successive British Government to recognise, compensate and decorate the over 20,000 armed forces personnel who participated in UK atomic and nuclear bomb tests in Australia, the Pacific Ocean and Nevada.

From 1952 until 1991,

the UK conducted 45 tests. In the early days, these included atmospheric tests exposing British personnel to heat, blast and radiation, usually without their being issued with any protective equipment and special training.

The seminar organised by Labrats International, with sponsorship from ICAN, allowed veterans, wives and widows, and family descendants to give

moving first-hand testimony of their experience and the impact of the tests, particularly on their health in later life.

The event was streamlined live, and participants were joined by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Mayor of Greater Manchester, and MR Rebecca Long-Bailey. The NFLA Secretary was also invited to speak.

The event can be viewed at <https://www.labrats.international/2022seminar>

Leeds tree brings hope of nuclear ban

NFLA Chair and Leeds City Councillor David Blackburn joined colleagues from Leeds Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament to unveil a plaque located next to a newly planted tree in Park Square, Leeds.

The tree and plaque mark the historic decision by Mayors for Peace / NFLA member, Leeds City Council in passing a resolution calling on the UK Government to sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.



Statement on the War in Ukraine: The Executive Board of the European Chapter of Mayors for Peace issued a position statement. This is an abridged version: *'Following up on the call by the Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace urging a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Ukraine, we issue the following statement:* • *We urge the Russian government and perpetrators of the current escalation and territorial aggression in Ukraine to put an end to hostilities, respect international law and commit to reinvigorated diplomatic efforts.* • *We express our solidarity with all Mayors, local governments and residents who have been suffering and will now suffer more from this war. This show of solidarity is especially addressed to our city members and friends in both Ukraine and Russia* • *We invite parties involved in diplomatic negotiations to go beyond confrontation and listen to these same communities and local leaders.* • *We recall the risk of a nuclear escalation inherent in the conflict, which would result in catastrophic humanitarian consequences not only for our shared continent but the whole world.* • *We reaffirm our willingness to continue working together with the international organisations in the peace movement, civil society and committed states in finding a solution to this conflict. As mayors and local representatives, we are committed to continue showcasing our people's firm choice in favour of peace and opposition to war. Let's work together to prevent and resolve conflicts, to continue building peace and to create safe environments where all our residents can live safely and with full respect to human rights.'* The full text can be found at <https://www.nuclearpolicy.info/news/statement-on-the-war-in-ukraine/>