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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>

Right: The Cardiff Declaration opposing new nuclear power in Wales and calling for a renewable powered future for the nation will be launched by the Welsh NFLA at a special event held in the Pierhead Building at the Senedd in Cardiff on 6 December.



Sizewell C gets go-ahead, but will Hinkley Point C face more setbacks

In the Chancellor's Autumn Financial Statement, Jeremy Hunt made plain that 'the government will proceed' with the madness that is Sizewell C, promising that not only would the £700 million commitment stay but that contracts (with EDF) would 'be signed within weeks'.

Mr Hunt said: "In the long-term, we have only one way to stop ourselves from being at the mercy of international gas prices: energy independence combined with energy efficiency."

The NFLA would agree with that, but rather than committing wholeheartedly to a emergency insulation and retrofitting programme combined with investment in renewables, smart grids and storage solutions, the Chancellor immediately went into default mode and committed the UK to Sizewell C mistakenly equating nuclear to 'independence'.

As the NFLA has previously commented nuclear means foreign technology, foreign finance, and above all foreign uranium, until now much of it supplied by an increasingly hostile Russia and its ally Kazakhstan.

Things appear then to be looking up for EDF Energy, but there remains the thorny issue of disentanglement from the out-of-favour Chinese with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak recently describing the 'Golden Age' of Sino-British relations first fostered by his predecessor David Cameron to be at an end.

Sizewell C, like Hinkley Point C, is co-owned with French-state owned EDF Energy holding an 80% stake and China-state owned China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN) the rest.

The national media reports that £100 million of the pledged government money will be earmarked to buy out the interest held by CGN in Sizewell C, and as this newsletter is going to press it appears that this may have had an impact on the delivery of Hinkley Point C.

EDF Energy has apparently approached the UK Government to draw up a new contract increasing the timeframe within which the company will be permitted to sell its electricity to the grid at a minimum guaranteed price.

EDF struck a deal which guaranteed them £92.50 for each megawatt hour of electricity generated at Hinkley Point C for the first 35 years. (This was indexed so the guaranteed strike price is now £106, up to the three times that for off-shore wind).

However, this was only applicable if the plant was operating before November 1, 2033. In the new deal, this end date has been extended by three years.

The Government has justified this decision in part by referencing the need to conclude the negotiations with the Chinese over Sizewell C.

EDF Energy insist that they remain on-track to open Hinkley Point C in the summer of 2027, but their on-track is currently still a decade out, and their track record of delivering EPR projects in Normandy and Finland doesn't inspire confidence.

Is the Sizewell C reference a means to allow further slippage at Hinkley Point C or is the government anticipating CGN will play hardball in the negotiations?

NFLA media releases,
November 2022:
(On website)

- Community Partnerships should include those opposed to nuclear dumps, say NFLA – 1 Dec
- Declaration to be launched at Senedd event to fight for nuclear-free future for Wales – 28 Nov
- After 7 decades, British nuclear veterans to receive a medal – but fight for justice goes on – 25 Nov
- Email no-more: Business Department tells correspondents to send a letter – 23 Nov
- Cities are not targets: Nuclear Free Local Authorities welcome signing of new international agreement – 18 Nov
- Half a Cheer and a Big Boo for the Chancellor over Autumn Statement – 17 Nov
- We stand with Tuvalu: Nuclear Free Local Authorities back Pacific island's bid for a new fossil fuel treaty-15 Nov
- Ever the optimists... Rolls-Royce chooses four sites for reactor that's yet to be built-9 Nov
- Campaigners seek early end to Chinese involvement at Bradwell-7 Nov
- Will they, won't they – Great Uncertainty over Government Go Ahead for Sizewell C – 4 Nov
- Nice work if you can get it: £750 a day for leading Lincolnshire's nuclear dump bid – 2 Nov

NFLA briefings,
November 2022:
(On website)

- NFLA Policy Briefing 255: NFLA Progress Report and Developments
- NFLA Policy Briefing 254: Nuclear Industry Liability under the Paris Convention

Community Partnerships should include opponents of nuke dumps

The NFLA has again written to each the four Community Partnerships responsible for taking forward proposals for a nuclear waste dump seeking assurances that opponents of the plan will have a chance to take up membership.

The Community Partnerships in Allerdale, Mid-Copeland, South-Copeland, all in West Cumbria, and in Theddlethorpe, in East Lincolnshire, are each pursuing the possibility of

hosting Britain's many tons of high-level radioactive waste, produced from Britain's civil nuclear and military nuclear programmes, in an undersea Geological Disposal Facility.

In his letter, NFLA Chair, Councillor David Blackburn, asks the remaining Community Partnerships to accept opponents of the GDF, should they choose to apply for membership.

Councillor Blackburn said: "The NFLA believes that the membership of each of the community partnerships must

reflect both the demographic and the range of views of those communities.

"Until now most members have been elected Councillors or connected to the nuclear industry through employment or business interests".

"We need more independent voices from all walks of life, particularly young people as decisions over a GDF will take place over more than a next decade, and this should include members of the community opposed to the plans, if they want to participate".

Play the game: Talking football pitches with Rolls-Royce

Whilst millions of fans are focused on the fortunes of their national side in the World Cup in Qatar, the UK/Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities are seeking out the answer to a football-related question much nearer to home.

Rolls-Royce has been talking big about the prospects for its so-called Small Modular Reactors in recent days, announcing plans to build up to thirty starting at Trawsfynydd and Wylfa in Wales and Sellafield (Moorside) and Oldbury in England, but everyone remains

confused as to how big the reactor is. Although the intended power output is clear, at 470 MW, various media articles have reported the SMR as occupying a surface area amounting to between 'one and a half and ten football pitches'.

As FIFA size standards for the dimensions of playing pitches have a wide variance the NFLA decided to use Wembley Stadium with a playing pitch of 105 metres by 68 metres as a reference most people can relate to.

The Chair of the NFLA Councillor David Blackburn has just written to Tom Samson, Chief Executive

Officer of Rolls-Royce SMR, seeking out the answer.

Councillor Blackburn said "If we do not know how big it is we do not know what we are dealing with, and it is way overdue for Rolls-Royce to provide clarity.

"With the FIFA standard size of a football pitch being variable, we have gone for Wembley Stadium as a reference most people, whether football fans or otherwise, can relate to.

"We have asked how many 'Wembley's' will the SMR fill? It is now over to Mr Samson to respond. We shall of course bring you the final score when we have it."

Mayors for Peace Chapter reaches first century

This month the UK/Ireland Chapter of Mayors for Peace got its first century as we were joined by Skipton Town Council and by Salisbury City Council.

Exceeding 100 members was one of the goals established in this year's action plan and it has just been reached before year's end.

Bike for Peace founder visits Oldham and Manchester

The UK/Ireland Chapter Secretariat recently hosted visits to Oldham and Manchester by Tore Naerland, President of Norwegian peace NGO Bike for Peace.

Tore was able to talk to students and staff at Saddleworth School and the Oldham Sixth Form College about peace, meet with Saddleworth peace activists and the Manchester Quakers, and call in to see the Lord Mayor of Manchester Cllr Donna Ludford, Vice President of Mayors for Peace, to present his new book (below)

We Stand with Tuvalu

Tuvalu may be many thousands of miles from the NFLA's home-turf, but we are fully behind that island nation's Prime Minister in calling for a new treaty to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

Prime Minister Kausea Natano made an impassioned plea to world leaders at the COP27 conference to adopt a new Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to manage the global transition away from fossil fuels and to provide financial and practical support to island and coastal nations threatened by drowning because of rising sea levels.

Councillor David Blackburn, Chair of the Steering Committee of the UK/Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities, wrote to the British Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary urging them to do everything in their power on the international stage to bring such a treaty into

force. He has also written to the Prime Minister of Tuvalu in solidarity and to offer the NFLA's support:

"As local authority leaders, we seek to be responsible world citizens and that includes taking some responsibility for the impact our nation's historic and ongoing addiction for oil, gas and coal has had upon the global climate.

"Tuvalu is slowly drowning as sea levels rise, because of the world's continued dependence upon fossil fuels, but even in the UK we are not immune from rising water levels with devastating floods, coastal erosion and storm surges.

"The NFLA is opposed to fossil fuel use as well as nuclear power. We want instead to see more of our energy supplied using renewable technologies, rather than resorting to burning oil or gas, or investing in nuclear energy".

Nuclear test veterans to get medal, but fight goes on..

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak may have announced that from next year the British nuclear test veterans will receive a Nuclear Test Medal, but the NFLA is determined to continue to support our ICAN partners, Labrats, in their fight for true justice for veterans and their families.

NFLA Chair Cllr David Blackburn said: *"We are glad for the test veterans that their demand for a medal has, after 70 years, finally been met, but we are sad and angry that the Prime Minister's announcement did not meet any of the other demands for justice from the test veterans' community.*

"There was no mention of the payment of compensation, no mention of making it easier for veterans to access service pensions, no promise of better medical treatment or access to medical records.

"So, the fight goes on for test veterans and the NFLA will be proud to stand alongside them".

Declaration to be launched at Senedd event to fight for nuclear-free Wales

The NFLA Wales Forum will be participating in a special event on Tuesday 6 December at the Senedd Pierhead Building in Cardiff Bay to mark 40-years of nuclear free Wales.

The first part hosted by CND Cymru will celebrate the occasion in 1982 when all eight County Councils declared themselves nuclear-free and there will be a chance to build support for the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons amongst Senedd members.

In the second part, the Welsh NFLA will be launching the Cardiff Declaration opposing nuclear power. Rolls-Royce has just announced plans to locate SMRS at Trawsfynydd in Gwynedd and Wylfa on Ynys Mon (Anglesey).

The NFLA session will be chaired by Councillor Sue Lent, NFLA Welsh Chair: *"Welsh NFLAs remain implacably opposed to any new nuclear power stations in Wales. We believe that there is simply no necessity for them. As a nation, we are blessed with a range of natural resources and with a long coastline from which her energy needs can be met using a combination of renewable technologies and storage solutions".*

