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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: <https://www.icanw.org/>

Right: Skegness is the premier resort on the East Lincolnshire coast. (Photo credit: Visit Skegness)

in an early leaflet promoting the GDF, Nuclear Waste Services misnamed the resort 'Skegross' in an unfortunate spelling error exposed by the NFLAs.



Save our Seaside: report says nuke dump will destroy East Lincolnshire tourism.

A report has just been published by the campaign group Guardians of the East Coast revealing the potential devastating impact on local tourism should a nuclear waste dump be built in Theddlethorpe. It does not make for easy reading.

1,100 visitors to the 20-mile seaside strip from Theddlethorpe to Skegness were surveyed by GOTEK activists in August. When asked whether a Geological Disposal Facility for nuclear waste would effect whether they would return to the area, 83% of those surveyed said that it would and a further 13% were unsure if it would.

Skegness, Sutton on Sea, Mablethorpe and Theddlethorpe are all tourist dependent seaside resorts, catering for day trippers and holidaymakers. A report completed by Global Tourism Solutions and published by East Lindsey District Council in early September revealed that in 2023 4.57 million people visited the district, generating £857.9 million of tourist income and sustaining 8,033 jobs. In March, Expedia listed Lincolnshire as one of the UK's 'fastest growing tourist destinations'.

Researchers sought to establish from the survey data what might be the likely impact on tourist numbers and income. The figures are frightening. Taking the Skegness numbers, they estimate over time a 40.5% decline in tourism would result, amounting to over 3,000 jobs lost and almost £250 million in lost annual income.

With an economy dependent on tourism, the NFLAs cannot understand why Lincolnshire County Council and East Lindsey District Council are continuing to jeopardise the future of their county's cash cow by aiding Nuclear Waste Services in their quest to bring an unwanted Geological Disposal Facility to Theddlethorpe. To the NFLAs this is the equivalent of two municipal turkeys voting for Christmas.

Surely the time is long overdue for the two Council Leaders to save their seaside and pull the plug on the GDF by collectively exercising their Right to Withdraw?

Desire to escape not seen as compelling need to leave under compo scheme.

In answer to an enquiry from the NFLA Secretary, Nuclear Waste Services have confirmed that a resident living in a Search Area under investigation for a Geological Disposal Facility who simply wishes to 'escape the madness' will be unable to access compensation under their recently launched scheme as this is not seen as a 'compelling need' to sell up at any cost.

Given the continued uncertainty is taking a toll on the emotional, mental and physical health of some residents, which may prompt some to want to move, this inflexible position seems to the NFLAs to be inhumane.

Latest NFLA media releases (on website)

- Amendment is “exciting opportunity to unlock the huge potential of community energy”-8 Oct
- Manchester City Council backs nuclear veterans on eve of anniversary of first test-10 Oct
- A desire to leave not a ‘compelling need’ under nuke dump compo scheme say NWS-11 Oct
- UK and Ireland partners congratulate 2024 Nobel Peace Prize winner-11 Oct
- ‘A catastrophically poor bargain for the UK’-14 Oct
- Spot to Robocop: could armed robots be the future of nuclear site security?-16 Oct
- Almost £250 million per year and over 3,000 jobs lost-21 Oct
- NFLAs welcome promise to declare Lakenheath a nuclear-free zone-24 Oct
- NFLAs believe budget is opportunity to lobby Ministers to ditch Sizewell C-28 Oct
- NFLAs join anti-nuke groups to lobby Chancellor for Sellafield cash-31 Oct
- After two months, NFLAs receive vague response on AGRs-1 Nov

Budget brings more cash but more delays for nuclear

Following Chancellor Rachel Reeves’ speech, the Treasury published the first Autumn Statement this week, which on nuclear contained some mixed messages.

Prior to the Autumn Statement, the NFLAs had endorsed another plea to ministers to abandon the Sizewell C project, but disappointingly, a further £2.7 billion was allocated as ‘funding to continue Sizewell C’s development through 2025-26’.

However, the report continues to be vague with the government’s drive to secure private sector investors ‘being concluded in the spring’ with ‘a Final Investment Decision on whether to proceed with the project...taken in Phase 2 of the Spending Review’ (whenever that is).

On Small Modular Reactors, the report states that ‘Great British Nuclear’s... competition is ongoing and has entered the negotiation phase with shortlisted vendors. Final decisions will be taken in the spring’.

These new timescales represent further delays.

NFLAs join anti-nuke groups in call to Chancellor not to cut Sellafield cash

Radiation Free Lakeland and the Nuclear Free Local Authorities were joined by twelve groups and individuals in writing to Chancellor Rachel Reeves calling on her not to cut the funding for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in the Autumn Statement.

The NDA is responsible for decommissioning operations at former nuclear power stations and the management of legacy radioactive waste, particularly at Sellafield.

Although we oppose new civil nuclear projects, and want to see existing plants closed as soon as possible, this will not magic the waste away. Our letter makes plain that we recognise that the NDA plays ‘*an indispensable role*’ in dealing with the existing deadly legacy and that ‘*these activities require sufficient public funding to continue efficiently but, most importantly, safely*’.

Any reduction in the NDA’s funding for this work is ‘*both illogical and bizarre*’, particularly with Labour’s commitment to new nuclear which will create yet more radioactive waste and more sites to decommission in the future.

‘No business of ministers’; regulator should decide on AGR safety say NFLAs

After a two-month delay, the NFLAs have finally received a cryptic reply from Labour’s Nuclear Minister in response to our concerns about the future of Britain’s Advanced’ Gas-Cooled Reactor (AGR) plants.

Hartlepool, Heysham-1, Heysham-2, and Torness have been operating for many years longer than intended. The NFLAs are concerned that the graphite moderators within each reactor are degenerating, compromising safety. The plants are currently expected to close by 2028, but Labour has pledged to ‘extend the lifetime of the existing plants until 2030’.

The NFLAs asked the minister to leave it to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), the independent regulator with the specialist expertise and the legal responsibility to make any decision on extending operating dates, as this is ‘frankly not the business of Ministers’.

In his reply, Lord Hunt says that: ‘*Decisions regarding the future operation of..any nuclear power station in Great Britain would be for the operator, EDF Energy, (and) the ONR. The ONR would not allow a reactor to operate, return to service or extend its operating life if it judged that it was not safe to do so*’.

We read this to mean that it will fall to the operator EDF Energy to apply to the ONR for permission to extend the operating life of any, or all, of the AGR plants, and that it will be the responsibility of the ONR to decide if it can grant that permission based upon the safety case submitted. This is as it should be.

RAB is ‘a catastrophically poor bargain for the UK’

The NFLA Chair recently co-signed a letter sent to Energy Secretary Ed Miliband challenging plans to use the Regulated Asset Base model to finance future nuclear power plants. The letter, drafted by the former Chief Statistician of the Scottish Office, has been endorsed by thirty high-level experts, comprising senior academics, former civil servants, nuclear regulators, citizen scientists and NGOs. In the letter, the experts have labelled RAB ‘a catastrophically poor bargain for the UK’. RAB means a levy will be imposed on the bills of electricity consumers to oblige them to pay the cost of building new nuclear power plants, hurting the poor particularly.

Manchester honoured to host Mayors for Peace conference

From 27-30 October, Manchester was honoured to host delegates from Europe, the USA and Japan at the Mayors for Peace Executive Cities Conference held in the city.

Delegates were welcomed to the city by the Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Paul Andrews.

The formal conference business was presided over by Mayors for Peace President Mayor Matsui of Hiroshima and First Vice President Mayor Suzuki of Nagasaki. Delegates reviewed their activities since the last conference, agreed a future action plan, and discussed the agenda for the next General Conference which will be held in Nagasaki in August 2025.

Aside from the business sessions, participants were able to join a tour of the city centre peace trail, a breakfast reception hosted by the Honorary Consul to Japan in Manchester, a memorial service to the victims of the Arena terrorist bombing, a guided tour of Manchester Cathedral, and a visit to the Manchester-based Nobel Peace Prize winning Mines Advisory Group.

A formal dinner was also held in the Living World gallery at Manchester Museum, in which new exhibition items from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum were on display and at which speakers told diners about the links being forged between schools in Manchester and in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and about a new exhibition of 3D portraits of the Hibakusha.

Meetings were also held of the Mayors for Peace European Chapter Board, chaired by Manchester's representative Cllr Tommy Judge, and a public meeting was held of the UK/Ireland Chapter, addressed by Mayor Matsui as our guest speaker.

The conference was pronounced a tremendous success.



Above: Students from Chorlton High School, which is now twinned with a Hiroshima school, made a presentation to Mayor Matsui of a framed photo and some home-made cakes.

Scoring a goal for peace: Hiroshima Mayor visits Manchester United

Hiroshima Mayor Matsui is a follower of his city's premier football club, Hiroshima Sanfrecce FC, which has just opened a brand-new Peace Stadium, and he was keen to visit Manchester United whilst he was with us to discuss forging a partnership for peace between the two clubs.

A VIP stadium tour and some initial exploratory talks with club officials were arranged by Reds' fan and Former UK/Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary Sean Morris on our final day.

The tour included a pitch-side photo, a visit to the museum and hospitality suites, and a sneak peek in the player's dressing room where preparations were being made for the match against Leicester that evening.

Mayor Matsui was presented with a gift: a shirt of a Japanese born player with United's first Women's Team.

We left with happy memories and the promise of more talks (and perhaps a future football match – sadly not with us playing) to come.

Below: the tour party were able to have a group photo by the side of the pitch



Manchester City Council passes resolution in support of Nuclear Test Veterans

At its October meeting, Manchester City Council passed a resolution brought by NFLA Nuclear Test Veterans Spokesperson Councillor Tommy Judge calling for the new Labour Government to recognise the suffering of Britain's nuclear test veteran community and recompense them for that suffering.

The NFLAs have called on other supportive Councils to do the same. Sir Keir Starmer promised to right the injustice done to this community within twelve months of taking office. It is now time to call him to account.