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<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>

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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: As well as making a massive investment in civil nuclear power, in a worrying development following the Strategic Defence Review, the Labour Government has just committed to purchasing 12 F35 A Lightnings from the US.

These will be armed with nuclear weapons in addition to Britain's existing Trident nuclear arsenal. They shall be based at RAF Marham in Norfolk.



When it comes to nuclear, Spending Review shows taxpayer money pot is bottomless.

With the level of public largesse distributed to the nuclear industry by Chancellor Rachel Reeves in the recent Spending Review, it appears the taxpayer-funded nuclear money pot appears to have no bottom – with a further £11.5 billion pledged to Sizewell C, £2.5 billion pledged to the manufacture of small modular reactors and £2.5 billion for a pilot fusion plant.

In last autumn's budget, the Labour Government pledged £2.7 billion to Sizewell C and £3.6 billion has previously been spent on the Suffolk boondoggle by the Conservatives. This means an astonishing £17.8 billion has so far been spent or pledged to Sizewell C, even before the much-delayed Financial Investment Decision has been signed off and this is only to cover the first four years of construction.

Private sector and partner interest in backing the project has been lukewarm. Centrica, parent company of British Gas is already an investor in Britain's existing nuclear fleet, announced that it had agreed to take an in-principal 15% stake in the project, Brookfield may take 20% - 25% but this is unconfirmed, but EDF Energy intends now to reduce its interest to 12.5% from 20%.

Unless other private investors step forward, this means the UK Government will have around a 50% stake and so British taxpayers will be on the hook for much of the (inevitable) cost and time overruns. Although the Government claims the project will cost £20 billion, Whitehall insiders have leaked to the press their fears that the real figure will be at least double that.

The Government also announced that after a protracted contest, that always seemed a one-horse race with the frontrunner receiving over £200 million in public funding to develop their design at the start, Great British Nuclear has (unsurprisingly) appointed Rolls Royce as the sole preferred provider of SMRs.

The announcement came with a commitment of £2.5 billion in taxpayer money to purchase three SMRs. In a clever sleight of hand, GBN was organisationally sashayed into Great Britain Energy with the money drawn from the £8.3 billion budget of the latter. Unfortunately, this means £2.5 billion diverted from investment in new renewable technology capacity which would have delivered 'clean' energy cheaper and quicker.

Ironically, the £2.5 billion is unlikely to even be sufficient to deliver even ONE SMR let alone three. The Roll-Royce SMR will be a First of a Kind (FOAK), with none so far built, no fabrication plants in place to make the parts, no experience of an onsite modular assembly, and no operating experience, so initial units will be costly. It remains to be seen how much of the GBE-N budget will ultimately be soaked away backing their development.

But when it comes to Nuclear, and its limitless costs, Ms Reeves seems not to give a FOAK.

On SMRs and Billy Bookcases.

A Bloomberg opinion columnist recently compared constructing Small Modular Reactors to building IKEA Billy Bookcases.

According to Lara Williams: *'If you've ever had the pleasure of assembling Ikea furniture, then you've learned something about big infrastructure projects.'*

'The first Billy bookcase is a nightmare of fumbled screws and baffling instructions. The second goes a little smoother. The third is a breeze. This is effectively what happens with nuclear power plants.'

By way of a retort, our NFLA Secretary commented: *'On the IKEA analogy the writer fails to mention that invariably there is a part / parts missing, there is a part / parts that are defective, that the assembly instructions make no sense, and that you are left with a lot of waste to clear up.'*

'Yep...just like a nuclear power plant project then.'

Prime Minister asserts welfare cuts needed to fund Sizewell C.

In an extraordinarily frank, and unsettling, tweet on 11 June, Prime Minister Keir Starmer claimed that the Government's welfare reform proposals were necessary to fund Sizewell C.

See https://x.com/Keir_Starmer/status/1932789330210172932



Following the reverse in Parliament which led to the withdrawal of some of these plans, and delays in the implementation of others, campaigners at Stop Sizewell C are seeking clarification on how this will affect the public funding available to the controversial Suffolk project.

Party poopers: NDA will not invite the King to blow up Calder Hall.

The NFLAs and Radiation Free Lakeland were disappointed to hear that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) will not be taking up our suggestion to invite HM King Charles III to demolish the iconic Calder Hall turbine hall.

Kind Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, officially opened the plant on 17 October 1956. At that time lauded as the world's first operational nuclear generating station, its real, and sinister, purpose was to generate plutonium to build Britain's first nuclear bombs.

After almost seven decades, the NDA has now applied for planning permission to clear the iconic Calder Hall site. The NFLAs and RFL asked NDA Group Chief Executive David Peattie to invite the King to *'do the honours'* once approval is received from Cumberland Council to proceed.

In his response, Mr Peattie said that *'a Royal ceremony to mark the event...is not in our plans. Further to this I believe that protocols dictate that the Monarch would only consider opening new facilities and not closing them'*.

To which we say: contrary to convention, King Charles might fancy the idea of blowing something up for a change, rather than merely ribbon cutting a new venture so why not send him an invite and see?

NFLA call to renew partnership to pursue ban on nuclear powered ships.

The NFLAs have written to KIMO International seeking to renew the campaign to ban nuclear powered shipping.

In the 1950's and 60's, the USA, USSR, Japan and West Germany all launched nuclear powered merchant ships, but only one Russian freighter is still operational in the Far North.

KIMO International, with whom the NFLAs have worked previously on combating nuclear pollution in European waters, have previously passed a resolution opposing such vessels.

In recent months, shipowners announced plans to redevelop such vessels claiming nuclear was a 'green' power source.

It's good to talk: transatlantic anti-nuclear alliance now being forged from film discussion.

The NFLAs were delighted to partner with film makers and producers from the United States to promote an award-winning documentary film.

'SOS - The San Onofre Syndrome: Nuclear Power's Legacy' features the campaign to close the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in California, and the legacy of radioactive waste left behind.



NFLA Secretary Richard Outram joined an online discussion with US filmmakers James Heddle, Mary Beth Brangan and Morgan Peterson for the discussion on Wednesday 11 June. UK participants were invited to watch the documentary film before the event and then contribute their questions and comments.

Attendees included academics and activists from several of the established campaigns opposed to nuclear power in the UK, and their knowledge and experience helped make the discussion more engaging.

The film depicts the secrecy and intransigence of the nuclear industry, the awakening of the host community's consciousness about the danger, the determined and inspiring campaign that ultimately led to the plant's closure, and their horror at discovering the deadly legacy of lethal radioactive waste left behind.

You can see the film via this link: <https://sanonofresyndrome.com/virtual-on-demand>

A follow up meeting will be held between the partners on 10th July to discuss developing a transatlantic partnership against nuclear power and waste. The guest speaker is Professor Bo Jacobs.

Give us extra cash to make Council car parks 'green.'

The NFLAs have called on government to give hard-pressed local authorities extra cash if they want them to install solar panels on municipal car parks.

As part of their 'Plan for Change' to move towards net zero, Ministers wish to see private and public car parks equipped with solar panels to reduce emissions and charge electric vehicles.

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has just concluded a month-long Call for Evidence to determine how installing solar canopies in car parks can help generate electricity, raise revenue, reduce running costs, and support the roll out of electric vehicles, whilst purposefully utilising otherwise empty roof space. Solar carports also have the virtue of providing shaded parking for motorists.

Local authorities manage and maintain a great many municipal car parks so equipping many or all of them with solar panels would represent a significant further financial burden for Councils.

In a recent poll of over 100 local authorities almost half said that accessing finance was the biggest barrier they faced in pursuing renewable energy projects.

Whilst the NFLAs fully support the government's objectives, Councils can only be 'champions' for renewable energy technologies if they have funding. In our response, we called for them to be allocated finance from the Great Britain Energy budget.

All Change at the Top.

With the Financial Investment Decision on Sizewell C rapidly approaching, there appears to be a ministerial hiatus in Whitehall.

Following Lord Hunt's resignation as Nuclear Minister, which Whitehall insisted was long-planned, the role was thought to have been earmarked for Baroness Margaret Curran. However she declined the appointment on health grounds. No one is in post as yet.

An NFLA letter sent to Baroness Curran was responded to by the Minister for Climate, Kerry McCarthy MP.

Latest NFLA media releases and briefings (on website)

Party poopers: NDA has no plans to invite King to demolish Calder Hall – 19 June
It's good to talk: US-UK anti-nuclear alliance forged from film discussion – 19 June
Give us cash to make Council car parks 'green' – 18 June
Time to revisit call for ban on nuclear shipping – 11 June
Cumbrians receive postal call to back nuke dump democracy petition – 9 June
NFLAs show solidarity with Sizewell C protestors – 9 June
NFLAs welcome new group opposed to nuke waste dump in South Copeland – 9 June
NFLA Policy Briefing 323: Correspondence with New Nuclear Minister over Sizewell C sign off – 18 July
NFLA Policy Briefing 322: NFLA Progress Report, Mid-February to June 2025 – 18 June

Parliament publishes damning Sellafield report

Sellafield held an emergency planning exercise in mid-May. In response, NFLA Secretary Richard Outram commented: *"Of course, all of this emergency preparation takes no account of the emergency that continues day to day – the ongoing radioactive contamination of the Cumbrian environment, air, waterways, land and beaches through continued wilful discharges by Sellafield."*

This observation was borne out by a highly damning report on progress in decommissioning at Sellafield issued by the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee

Members said the retrieval of waste at Sellafield is happening too slowly and warns that the estimated £136bn cost of the project will rise even more if work is further delayed.

The Committee Chair described the current risks as 'intolerable' and the report notes these are getting worse.

One building, the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo (MSSS), has been leaking radioactive water into the ground since 2018, enough to fill an Olympic swimming pool roughly every three years. The NDA says its safe.

The report can be found at: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/127/public-accounts-committee/news/207132/sellafields-race-against-time-nuclear-waste-cleanup-not-going-quickly-enough-pac-warns/>

Iran air attacks further demonstrate nuke plant vulnerabilities

Recent air strikes made by the United States against Iranian uranium enrichment facilities were based on the unevidenced pretext that the enriched products are destined to develop a weapon rather than as for use as fuel in a civil nuclear programme.

Reports on the damage inflicted remains unclear, with conflicting claims by the parties involved and the IAEA. The stockpile of enriched products is now unaccounted for and the Iranians have banished the IAEA from making further inspections. President Trump has not ruled out a second strike.

The attacks further demonstrate that nuclear plants remain vulnerable to damage or destruction by modern aerial weapons.

Yet this is far from the first purposeful air attack made on a nuclear facility:

In Sept 1980, the Iranian airforce attacked the Al Tuwaitha Iraqi nuclear complex, damaging a near constructed reactor.

In June 1981, the Israeli airforce completely destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear research facility.

Between 1984 and 1987, Iraq bombed Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant on six occasions. (This facility was also recently attacked).

In Sept 1987, Israel bombed a Syrian reactor under construction at Deir-ez-Zor.

In 1991, the US Air Force bombed three reactors and an enrichment pilot facility in Iraq.

Although these attacks took place in the volatile Middle East, we have seen during the conflict in Ukraine drone attacks upon the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power complex, with emergency power supplies compromised and some evident damage to a reactor dome and buildings.

The NFLAs have previously written to the Russian and Ukrainian Ambassadors to the United Kingdom, to the IAEA Director General and to the UN General Secretary urging them all to work for a cessation of these attacks. Worryingly we received no replies to any of these letters.