

**All Party Parliamentary Group on Nuclear Energy
Meeting on 24 July 2007**

Attendees

John Robertson MP (Chair)
Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP
Jimmy Hood MP
Jim Sheridan MP
Stephen Ladyman MP
Iain Liddell Grainger MP
Lord Martin O'Neill of Clackmannan Chairman, NIA
Keith Parker, NIA
Simon James, NIA
Tris Denton, NIA
Keith Bradley AECL
Oliver Pauley, Fleishman Hillard
Craig Stevenson, British Energy
Miranda Kirschel, CH2M Hill
Linda Smith, Administrator

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies were received from Michael Connarty MP. John Robertson thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting and welcomed the speaker for today: Lord Martin O'Neill of Clackmannan, the newly appointed Chairman of the Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) who would be speaking to the group on his new role.

2. Nomination of officers

Current officers

John Robertson MP	Chairman
Michael Connarty MP	Secretary
David Drew MP	Assistant Secretary
Lord McNally	Vice Chair
Lord Jenkin of Roding	Vice Chair
Lord Christopher	Vice Chair
Robert Goodwill MP	Vice Chair
Jimmy Hood MP	Treasurer

It was proposed that the existing officers should be reappointed for the coming year with one addition that the Rt Hon Adam Ingram MP, be appointed as a fourth Vice Chair. This was seconded by Jim Sheridan MP and seconded by Stephen Ladyman MP.

3. Martin O'Neill, Chairman, NIA

Martin thanked the group for inviting him along to speak to them. He went on to talk about a meeting he had about 5 years ago with Tony Cooper, the then Chairman of the NIA. They discussed the generation gap, the dash for and gas and renewables and the conclusion was nothing other than nuclear would fill the gap. They touched on areas such as planning, new types of reactors and replacement build. He felt that the principle elements of that conversation held true today. He said that historically the nuclear industry has been a good employer and a good neighbour but there were still issues which required to be addressed. In particular over perceptions of safety and of nuclear waste.

He touched on the NDA and decommissioning, particularly with regards to the problems currently being experienced by the supply chain because of contracts being advertised then withdrawn, sometimes after they had been awarded. NIA were currently in discussion with the NDA on this issue.

He discussed the skills required to do any tasks within the industry from the shop floor, graduates and post graduates and the work which is currently being done to secure these. NIA's members had made it clear that recruitment of sufficient suitably skilled labour was a serious issue for the industry.

In discussion the areas of concern raised were:

- New build – Finland was now behind schedule
- Skills/education
- Leadership in Government
- Waste – NDA's role critical
- Civil and MOD – how better can we bring all players together – lack of coordination.
- Scottish issue – no nuclear new build

4. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the group will take place on 28 November 2007 in the Grimmond Room Portcullis House at 10am. Brian Cothran, Vice-President, GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy. Presentation on "New Nuclear Energy in the UK ...a GE Perspective".