BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE www.bredl.org






The LEAGUE LINE

Spring 2012

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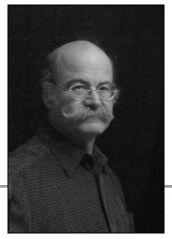
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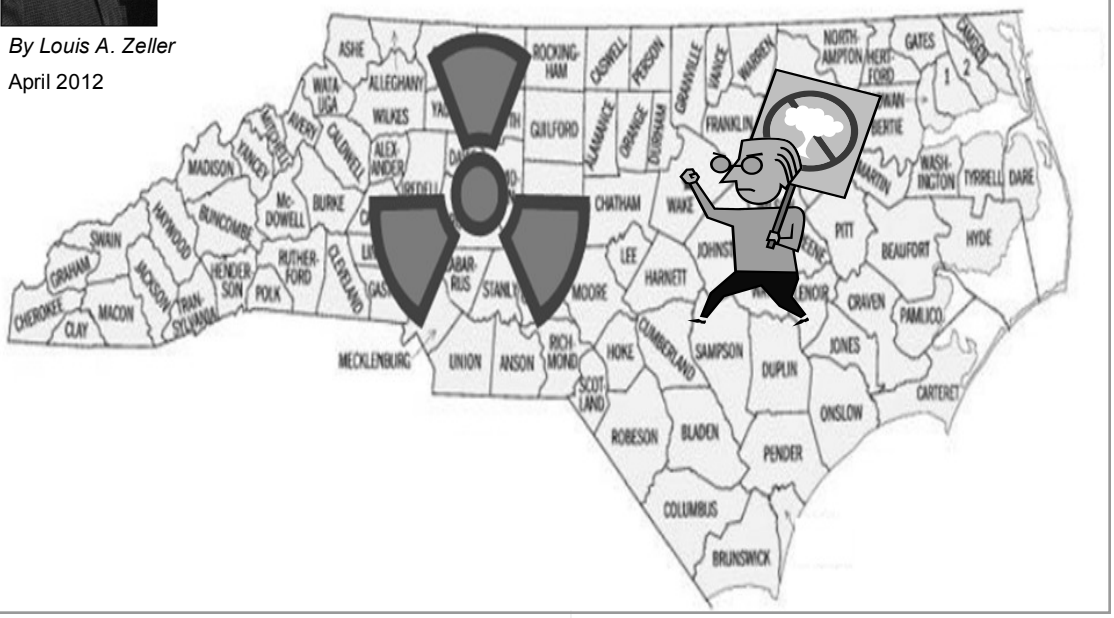


Perkins Nuclear Site in North Carolina:

Negative Impacts of Possible Nuclear Reactors on the Yadkin River, Davie County and Davidson County

By Louis A. Zeller

April 2012



In the 1970's Duke Power spent millions to put a nuclear power plant 15 miles southwest of Winston -Salem, North Carolina; the Thomas L. Perkins Nuclear Station would have had three reactors rated at a total of 3,840 megawatts. But the plan foundered when costs skyrocketed and public opposition mounted. The disaster at Three Mile Island sealed its fate and Duke dropped the proposal in 1984.

But in 2005 Duke Power revived its plans. The Perkins site, still owned by Duke Power, continued to be managed as game land by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. In support of the renewed proposal, the company joined the nuclear consortium NuStart, which includes eight other utilities and two nuclear reactor manufacturers: GE and Westinghouse. Duke officials had meetings with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission to discuss costs and permitting options for new commercial nuclear reactors. At the top of the list of possible sites for two new reactors were the Perkins tracts: 1,705 acres in Davie County and 1,616 acres across the Yadkin River in Davidson County.

In 2008 Duke Energy Carolinas submitted an application to construct and operate two Westinghouse AP1000 reactors at another site located in Cherokee County, South Carolina. As part of the approval process for the plant, dubbed William States Lee III, Duke and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission analyzed several alternative sites including Perkins. As part of its alternatives analysis, the agency revisited earlier environmental impact studies. The NRC concluded: "...both the Lee Nuclear Station site (former Cherokee Nuclear Station site) and Perkins site met the preceding criteria of having been found previously acceptable after a NEPA review." [I] Yet there are 36 notable wildlife features within 15 miles of the Perkins site that are either threatened, endangered or candidates for listing as imperiled or rare, including the southern bog turtle and the bald eagle. And that's not all.

(continued on page 7)

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BREDL: Who and what we are

In March 1984, fifty citizens of Ashe and Watauga Counties met in the Mission House of Holy Trinity Church in Glendale Springs, North Carolina. Teachers and farmers, home-makers and merchants listened to the report of the Episcopal Church Women on the US Department of Energy's siting search for a high-level nuclear waste dump in the rain-rich east.

Recognizing that the North Carolina mountains were a region at risk, the assembled group organized the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) to protect their own backyard and those of other threatened communities.

Grassroots organizing was a cornerstone of our early all-volunteer organization. One of our first multi-county boards of directors adopted our credo, which embodies our mission statement:

BREDL Credo

We believe in the practice of earth stewardship, not only by our league members, but by our government and the public as well. To foster stewardship, BREDL encourages government and citizen responsibility in conserving and protecting our natural resources. BREDL advocates grassroots involvement in order to empower whole communities in environmental issues. BREDL functions as a "watchdog" of the environment, monitoring issues and holding government officials accountable for their actions. BREDL networks with citizen groups and agencies, collecting and disseminating accurate, timely information. BREDL sets standards for environmental quality, and awards individuals and agencies who uphold these standards in practice.

Moving into the future

Since then, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League has grown to be a regional community-based, nonprofit environmental organization. Our founding principles - earth stewardship, environmental democracy, social justice and community empowerment - still guide our work for social change. Our staff and volunteers put into practice the ideals of love of community and love of neighbor, which help us to serve the movement for environmental protection and progressive social change in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

Grassroots Campaigns

Nothing creates hopefulness out of helplessness like a successful grassroots campaign - and our chapters have a history of winning. For twenty-eight years Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League chapters have protected their communities by stopping dangerous facilities and promoting safe alternatives.

In the 1980's and 1990's, BREDL prevented a multi-state ThermalKEM hazardous waste incinerator, a southeastern nuclear waste dump and a national nuclear waste dump. In the 2000's, our coordinated grassroots citizens' campaigns have had further victories. We won a legislative victory with the passage of the NC Solid Waste Act, effectively blocking at least four multi-state mega-dumps. Our Person County chapter convinced their Board of Commissioners to reject expansion of the Republic Services landfill. Our Cascade, Virginia, chapter shut down a huge hazardous waste incinerator. We eliminated mercury waste from the Stericycle incinerator, shut down a tire incinerator in Martinsville, won the landmark environmental justice court decision in Greene County, NC. Further, with our chapters we have protected air quality by blocking scores of asphalt plants, four medical waste incinerators, a PVC plant and a lead smelter, and passage by local governments of eight polluting industries ordinances. Our work on nuclear power and coal plants laid the groundwork for our new Safe Energy Campaign. Victories over twenty-four mega-dumps have resulted in our affirmative Zero Waste Campaign. Guided by the principles of earth stewardship and environmental justice, we have learned that empowering whole communities with effective grassroots campaigns is the most effective strategy for lasting change.■

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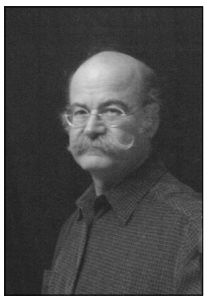
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April 13, 2012

"Lou, how do we keep the lights on if we shut down _____?"

(Fill in the blank with your polluting facility of choice here.) At the grassroots level, our campaigns center on stopping pollution and rarely delve into this question. So let's address it.

ENERGY REVOLUTION



Director's Report
by Louis A. Zeller

What does the Twelfth Century have in common with the Twenty-first? A revolution in the way energy is generated, by whom it is generated and for whom it profits. In the 12th Century, waterwheels were not only instruments for grinding grain, they were sources of political power. Kings and popes dominated the land and waterways, riparian rights were vested in the nobility who controlled and operated the water wheels. This monopoly provided a lucrative and dependable source of revenue, collected from tenant farmers and town folk. But the invention of the post-windmill in 1137 changed all that. The new wind-powered mills were outside of the control of the privileged few, sparking the growth of a middle class; and "brash independents—clever peasants, knights dissatisfied with their small fiefs, university-trained intellectuals, and women anxious to support themselves—soon built their own rival mills." [i] The nobles and clerics did not give up power easily, but this new energy freedom and economic independence anticipated the Reformation and the Renaissance and helped to end the oligarchy's absolute grip on power.

Today, energy production remains closely associated with economic and political power. Top *Fortune 500* companies are the Daddy Rabbits of national energy legislation. Electric power utilities, particularly those in the Southeast, also rank high on the *Fortune 500*: Southern Company, Dominion Resources and Duke Energy. With annual combined revenues of $47 billion and profits of $6 billion, the power of these three energy giants alone is tantamount to a 21st Century oligarchy, with political influence vastly disproportionate to their number.

So, where's the 21st Century revolution? It is already underway, and without a parchment thesis being nailed to a door. Rather, the transformation from a fossil-fueled and nuclear-powered economy to a 100% renewable energy economy is being led by "brash independents."

For example, in India, Simpa Networks Inc. installs solar panels on residential rooftops. Electric use is monitored in a pay-as-you-go model controlled by cell phone. Such microgrids are expanding, providing power to people in the developing world, saving money and eliminating kerosene lamps. In a nation of 1.2 billion people, the potential is enormous. India also has 30,000 megawatts of diesel generated electric power which could be replaced with solar tomorrow, according to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. "This is power to the people," said Jeremy Rifkin, author of *The Third Industrial Revolution*.

Worldwide, 40,000 megawatts of new wind power capacity was commissioned in 2011, a record year. Last year the United States added 6,800 megawatts of wind powered electric generation, bringing its total to 47,000 megawatts. The 845-megawatt Shepherds Flat Wind Farm, under construction in Oregon, will be the largest wind-powered installation in the world. More and bigger wind farms are soon to come.

Wind and solar are intermittent power sources: the wind doesn't always blow and the sun goes down at night. But a solution has been advanced by Duke University's Dr. John Blackburn using North Carolina wind and solar data. Blackburn showed that by combining both, generating them at dispersed locations and using a smart grid, the need for backup power sources could be greatly reduced or even eliminated. [ii]

A typical nuclear power plant is rated at 1,000 megawatts. Five states—Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia—have a combined coal-fired power plant capacity of 50,840 megawatts. At a rate of 6,800 megawatts per year of new renewable wind power, the equivalent of the coal-fired plants in these five states could be retired in seven and a half years. Likewise, six AP1000 nuclear reactors—two at Bellefonte, two at William States Lee and two at Vogtle—could be avoided and clean power produced at a rate of 5 to 8 cents per kilowatt-hour, competitive with coal.

During the last year, Germany shut down seven nuclear reactors. Contrary to the dire predictions of power company magnates, there were no blackouts. Electric rates went up briefly but returned to normal by year end and are now lower than rates in nuclear-electric powered France. In a visionary statement, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said, "When, as we have seen in Japan, the apparently unthinkable happens, the absolutely improbable becomes reality, the situation changes." She announced closure of the remaining nine German nuclear plants by 2022 and a switch to 80% renewables by mid-century. Germany already leads Europe in wind-powered electric generation—29,000 megawatts—and doubled its solar power capacity in 2011.

The term "Energie wende" is German for "energy turnaround," and describes the changes now underway there. But "wende" is commonly used as a synonym for the peaceful revolution of 1989-1990 that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall and reunification. If we can but see it, a 21st Century turn is in motion.

"The forces which inspired our distant ancestors are also present in us. What was done but turned out wrong can be done again. 'The Golden Age,' which blind superstition had placed behind or ahead of us, is in us." [iii]

We don't need coal. We don't need nuclear. We don't need biomass. What we need is a 100% clean, renewable energy revolution.

[i] *Edward J. Kealey, Harvesting the Air: Windmill Pioneers in Twelfth-Century England. University of California Press, 1987*

[ii] Matching Utility Loads with Solar and Wind Power in North Carolina: Dealing with Intermittent Electricity Sources, John Blackburn (March 2010)

[iii] *Claude Levi-Strauss, Tristes Tropiques*

Justice is Missing in North Carolina Fracking Study

By Therese Vick, BREDL Community Organizer

> *It is not what a lawyer tells me I may do; but what humanity, reason, and justice tell me I ought to do.*
>
> ***Edmund Burke***

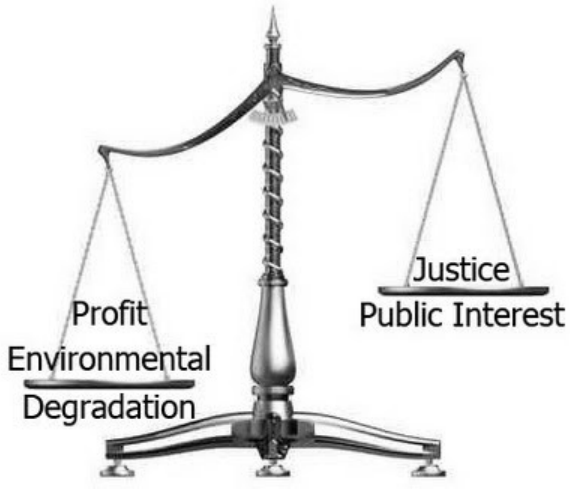
On March 15, 2012, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources released their long-awaited draft study on the effects hydraulic fracturing would have on the people and environment of North Carolina. This was less than a week before the first public hearing. Astoundingly, the executive summary and introduction were at polar opposites from the meat of the 444 page report, obviously window dressing for media and legislators who would not venture into the depths of that lengthy tome. In comments presented at the Sanford hearing, BREDL likened it to "putting a cover from a romance novel on a horror story."

Anyone who read the study understood that DENR was saying, "We're not ready." Perhaps more startling was the complete absence of the words "environmental justice" within those 444 pages. It seems unfathomable that in the state where the Environmental Justice Movement was sparked by the forced dumping of PCB's on the poor African American community of Afton that the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) declined to mention, much less examine, the potential environmental justice impacts of fracking.

Many of the mostly rural shale communities have a significant number of minority residents, who also depend on well water. For example, Lee County has a population that is over 37% People of Color. Anson County is over 53 % minority. NC DENR's Equity Policy states in part that DENR will:

- Provide information for citizens and neighborhood groups to allow meaningful participation in regulatory processes,
- Respond in a meaningful manner to allegations of environmental injustice
- Increase awareness of environmental conditions in minority and low-income communities,
- Address environmental equity issues in permitting decisions for projects potentially having a disparate impact on communities protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,
- Promote greater use and analysis of demographic information to identify communities that may be disproportionately impacted by sources of pollution,
- Use demographic information to determine whether there is: 1) a need for greater outreach to community in order to encourage more meaningful participation, or 2) special health risks based on the nature of the population,
- Develop guidelines for assessing the cumulative effects of permitted facilities.
- Provide opportunities for interested parties to raise concerns on Environmental Equity in DENR's decisions.

DENR has not only failed in its obligation to protect those disproportionately affected by polluting industry — People of Color, the poor, and the elderly—DENR has *chosen to ignore their own policy*. Ignoring environmental justice in the state fracking study is unconscionable. This is a wrong that must be righted.■





South Atlantic Galvanizing LLC vs. North Carolina Citizens

By Therese Vick, BREDL Community Organizer

Background:

In July 2011, BREDL discovered that the Winston-Salem office of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had illegally granted South Atlantic Galvanizing (SAG), located in Graham, North Carolina, confidentiality on ambient air testing results. The decision flew in the face of federal and state laws concerning open records and access to public information.[1]

In a bold move, BREDL challenged the confidentiality determination. And in October the Director of the Division of Air Quality agreed to release the air pollution data. However, South Atlantic Galvanizing appealed to the NC Environmental Management Commission. But the EMC rejected the company's appeal and confirmed the decision to release the information. Determined to keep its pollution secret, SAG has now appealed to Superior Court.

Why is this so important to all North Carolina communities?

This issue touches every North Carolina backyard. Traditionally, state and federal agencies have very narrowly defined what a "trade secret" is, and have explicitly exempted air emissions data from that designation. This definition has been echoed by the courts. While the assistant attorney general's brief was strong, the presentation before the EMC seemed hesitant and unconvincing. Make no mistake, DAQ would never have agreed with BREDL if there was even a chance for them to wiggle out of this controversy and make it go away. DAQ has since clarified what constitutes a trade secret and what can be held confidential.[2] BREDL feels that it is vitally important that the League participate with the State in the upcoming legal action for these reasons:

* We want DENR's side of the case to be as strong as possible.
* We do not know how familiar a local judge will be with state and federal public records law.
* ***It would set a horrible precedent for North Carolinas if SAG were successful in this suit.*** It is difficult to express in words how horrible, but as a community organizer I can see hundreds of ways industry could use this against our communities.

This participation will not be free. However, the costs to public health, transparent government, and the environment could be incalculable if SAG prevails. BREDL's NEW chapter will embark on a fund raising campaign for this effort, but there will be more financial support needed. South Atlantic Galvanizing must not be allowed to make a mockery of our judicial system.■

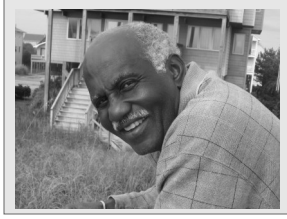
Air Emissions	5089.425	4217.725	
	4791.125	5392.925	5388.925
	14428	13646	17718
	25406	24948	21997
	NR	NR	
Total On-Site Releases			5105.783
	4236.866	4831.353	5423.998
	5432.969	14428	13646
	17718	25406	
	24948	21997	
	NR		
	NR		
Transfer Dis-		**Off-Site to posal**	78091.13
			58658.61
		77394.48	92777.9
	96165.6	4325	3880
	5469	5406	6252
	8580	NR	NR
Total Releases	83196.913		
	62895.476		
	82225.833		
	98201.898		
	101598.569		18753
	17526	23187	30812
	31200	30577	NR
	NR		

CONFIDENTIAL ?

[1] See the BREDL Fall 2011 League Line for more. http://www.bredl.org/theleagueline/Fall2011.pdf

[2] Flyer Posted January 27, 2012: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources " Requesting Confidential Treatment of Trade Secret Material

http://daq.state.nc.us/permits/memos/public_records_flyer_final.pdf



Unequal Protection from Pollution in the Southeast

By Charles Utley,
BREDL Environmental Justice/SRS Campaign Coordinator

There are a vast number of industries that pollute our environment on a daily basis. The sad thing is that the great majority of these plants are found in Environmental Justice communities in the Southeast. We need to continue to study the effects of these plants on our environment, but just as important is the need to know the effects these plants have on the residents of these communities. This is a great injustice that communities of color and the poor face. When we consider that many new nuclear reactors are being considered or being built in America, we must consider their locations. First, we must look at the geography of the United States. The majority of these polluting industries—including nuclear reactors, chemical plants, mass burning incinerators and nuclear power plants—are geographically located in the Southeast.

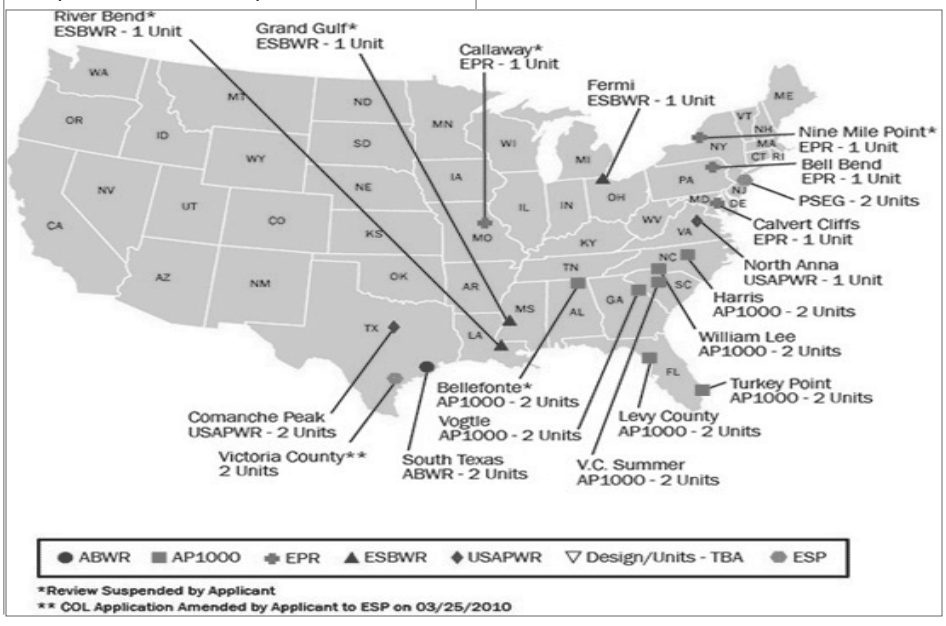
This excess number of polluting industries in the Southeast is evidence that there is a growing Environmental Justice problem and that the problem is focused on our communities. But Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League's work extends far beyond the borders of our service area of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Maryland and Georgia. There are real problems that are being created through polluting industries and factories from hydrofracking drilling to nuclear plants in the back yards of our communities. Virginia and North Carolina, in particular, have a great need for communities to be concerned about hydrofracking. The long term effects of this fast moving industry should be closely monitored in our Environment Justice communities where it is prevalent.

With the proposed *cookie cutter* design of the AP 1000 by Westinghouse for nuclear power in America, there is a great need for epidemiology studies to be conducted in targeted Environmental Justice communities. Radiation may be everywhere, but these communities in particular are receiving a disproportionate amount of radiation. This is because of the multiple siting of polluting industries in close proximity to these communities. The Environmental Justice movement was designed to put a stop to these practices and it has made a great impact, but there is still work to be done. We must remain alert throughout the Southeast because of the environmental injustices that are being placed on these communities. We must counter legislation and environmental impact studies that exclude the Environmental Justice component. This component is for the protection of these communities. It should be mandatory that the scoping plans for any proposed waste facility or air pollution permit not be considered without an Environmental Justice impact evaluation.

Because of the enormous costs involved, the nuclear industry requested more loan guarantees from the government totaling $100 billion. The US Department of Energy also sought another $9 billion though other legislation for the utility companies, Southern Company and Oglethorpe Power, for Plant Vogtle located in the Shell Bluff Community near Waynesboro, Georgia, as well as three other plants for the installation of five proposed reactors. With federal assistance, the nuclear power companies continue to push their unsafe practices on Environmental Justice communities.

When we look where these polluting industries are located and are being proposed to be built, it is clear that we must seek new legislation to protect those who live around these plants.

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League and other organizations will continue to rally around the Environmental Justice community of Shell Bluff in the fight against two new additional reactors by Southern Company. We need the support that was shown when activists came together from all over the Southeast on the anniversary of Fukushima to Fairfield Baptist Church in Waynesboro. This show of support to local communities causes an emotional high for those who are living under these conditions. The impact of environmentalists who came together from across the Southeast strengthens the community to continue to fight in their struggle against all forms of injustice. With the massive amount of money being spent on the development of nuclear power plants under the umbrella of the "need for jobs," Environmental Justice would be taking a serious step backward, and the impact of these plants' exposure accelerated, unless we act now. ■



(continued from page 1) # Perkins Nuclear Site in North Carolina

During the 1970's, opponents said that water use by the plant's cooling towers would have reduced water flow in the Yadkin to dangerous levels, causing problems downstream at High Rock Lake, Tuckertown Reservoir, Badin Lake and Falls Reservoir. The newer Westinghouse reactors envisioned for Perkins and the reduction from three units to two may alter that assessment, but water impacts continue to be a major negative aspect of Duke's plan. An updated environmental impact statement details the existing water flow of the Yadkin River at the Perkins site (Table A).

Table A. Yadkin River Flow

Average annual flow	3000 cfs
Low monthly flow (once every 2 years)	1153 cfs
Lowest average flow (once every 10 years)	630 cfs

* Two AP1000 nuclear reactors at Perkins would withdraw water at 78 cubic feet per second (cfs), with only 22 cfs returned to the river.

* NC DENR estimates that by 2020 residential and non-residential use of water in the Yadkin-Pee Dee Basin not including a nuclear power plant will be 343 cfs.

* If Duke were to pursue its Perkins plan, low flow conditions would require it to construct 1,500 acres of supplemental water reservoirs outside of and in addition to the 450 acre plant site. (1,500 acres is like 1500 football fields!)

The study area in the NRC analysis includes Elkin, Hickory, Charlotte, Statesville, Salisbury, Winston-Salem, High Point and Greensboro, a sixteen-county region centered on the Perkins site. All these cities are within the 50-mile presumed impact zone. Over 2.6 million people live within this zone, over a quarter of the state's population. However, according to the 2011 draft EIS, consequences of severe accidents in the region caused by a Westinghouse AP1000 or other current-generation reactor would meet the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's safety goals. Oblivious to the lessons of Fukushima, NRC concluded: "On this basis, the NRC staff concludes that the cumulative risks from severe accidents at any location within 50 miles of the Perkins alternative site would be SMALL."

Continuing its biased analysis, the NRC found that nuclear plants at Perkins plus all the other industries in this area would "not contribute to environmental justice impacts of the region." Industries listed in the EIS include nuclear power plants—Catawba, Robinson, McGuire and Harris—coal fired power plants—Buck, Marshall, Belews Creek and Riverbend—and a variety of other industries. Here, in one sweeping statement, we see the institutional blind spot of an agency which neglects the combined effects of multiple sources of pollution on public health and downplays environmental justice impacts. The root causes of environmental injustice include "institutionalized racism; the co-modification of land, water, energy and air; unresponsive, unaccountable government policies and regulation; and lack of resources and power in affected communities." [iii]

Nuclear power plants have always been expensive and risky investments, but Duke seeks government assistance to protect its investors. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 provided some of this protection: The Department of Energy would cover cost overruns caused by regulatory delays:

* up to $500 million for each of the first two new nukes

* and up to $250 million each for the next four, totaling two billion dollars.

* Also, the Act established a production tax credit of 1.8 cents per kilowatt-hour for new nuclear power plants up to $125 million per year for eight years, another billion dollars. And the Price-Anderson Nuclear Industries Indemnity Act was extended through 2025.

At present, the status of Duke Energy Carolina's plan for Perkins is unclear. The company is certainly pursuing state permits and an NRC license for the William States Lee power plant in South Carolina. However, the on-again-off-again nuke on the Yadkin remains an option.■



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[i] Draft NUREG-2111, December 2011, Section 9.3.1 Alternative Site Selection Process, page 9-41

[ii] Draft NUREG-2111, December 2011, Section 9.3.1 Alternative Site Selection Process, page 9-94

[iii] *Building Healthy Communities from the Ground Up: Environmental Justice in California*, Environmental Health Coalition, Retrieved April 12, 2012 at http://www.cbecal.org/

CHEJ SPOTLIGHTS JANET MARSH



Our good friends from The Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ) have honored our own Janet Marsh with a Spotlight article in the Winter 2012 Edition of the CHEJ Insider News Bulletin. Here we share the powerful testimony that confirms Janet's commitment to her community and her state. CHEJ and everyone who knows Janet agrees that she is truly inspirational to all of us.

"One person speaking alone may not be heard, but many people speaking with one voice cannot be ignored."

-Janet Marsh, May 4, 1984.

This statement, delivered at a pivotal public meeting at a rural county courthouse in western North Carolina, defines the foundation upon which the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League was founded, and continues to guide their operations today. The speaker, at the helm of BREDL since the beginning, is Janet Marsh, an inspiration to all who know her.

Janet was born and raised in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. As a child, she loved playing outside and admired the beauty of the mountains surrounding her, but had no idea that she would grow up to protect them.

Strongly committed to her community and state, Janet has lived in North Carolina for most of her life. She graduated from Appalachian State University with both Bachelors and Masters degrees and became a successful teacher. She taught English at both a local high school and her alma mater. Janet established a debate team at the high school and taught her students how to hone their arguments and be persuasive – they even won honors at the National Bicentennial Debates competition three years in a row! She was recognized as Young Career Woman of the Year by the North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. In short, Janet was poised for more success and ready to take the world by storm.

Soon into her early professional success though, Janet suffered a medical setback that could break the resolve of anyone – she lost her eyesight.

The progressive macular degeneration of Stargardts Disease robbed Janet of her central vision, leaving her unable to drive or read her favorite classic novels. The disease cut Janet's promising educational career short, and she turned to the domestic life of a homemaker, mother, and farmer in her beloved Blue Ridge Mountains.

Soon after, Janet learned of the US Department of Energy's plans to bury 70,000 metric tons of high-level radioactive waste deep in the bedrock of the eastern United States. Twelve potential dump sites were identified, and two of them were in North Carolina.

Janet couldn't sit back and let radioactive waste destroy the beautiful environment she loved so dearly, so she launched into action. She recruited fellow members of the women's committee at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and learned all she could about the plans, calling government officials and elected representatives to find out more. In March 1984, the women's committee evolved into the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League and soon attained non-profit status.

The humble beginnings of BREDL truly stemmed from a group effort. Thick governmental publications arrived in Janet's mailbox: geological surveys, legislative documents, legal briefs, and site assessments. Her friends and neighbors read thousands of pages of text to her and she gained an encyclopedic understanding of the techniques and politics of nuclear waste.

Armed with her newfound knowledge, Janet organized her first-ever community meeting at the local courthouse, and filled the room to capacity. From there, momentum grew and grew. Volunteers drove Janet thousands of miles to communities throughout the state. The climax of the campaign came in 1986 when citizens filled the Asheville civic center to capacity and testified for over 24 hours at the Department of Energy's public hearing. Regional organizing prompted Congressional action in 1987. Janet and her fellow North Carolinians had effectively ended the planned nuclear waste project – success!

Since then, BREDL has continued to grow in size and scope. Today the organization spans seven states (North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina, Maryland, Tennessee and Alabama) and tackles a multitude of environmental issues.

One of the latest efforts from BREDL involves moving communities toward zero waste policies. In conjunction with CHEJ, BREDL worked with rural counties in North Carolina to brainstorm the types of green jobs they'd like for their communities, instead of the all-too-common mega-dumps and other polluting facilities. Two of these communities moved on to successfully establish a county recycling facility and a farmers market!

Today, Janet is still at the helm of BREDL and remains as humble as ever. Whereas others might have been angry at losing their eyesight, Janet has said many times that it allowed her to see past the vanity and pride of her youth. "My blindness has given me new insight," she says. What Janet cannot see is not so important as the injustices she can feel. Janet is truly inspirational to all of us ■



"What Janet cannot see is not so important as the injustices she can feel."



Powerful Electronic Mapping Tools Target Interested Stakeholders

By Ann Rogers, BREDL Community Organizer

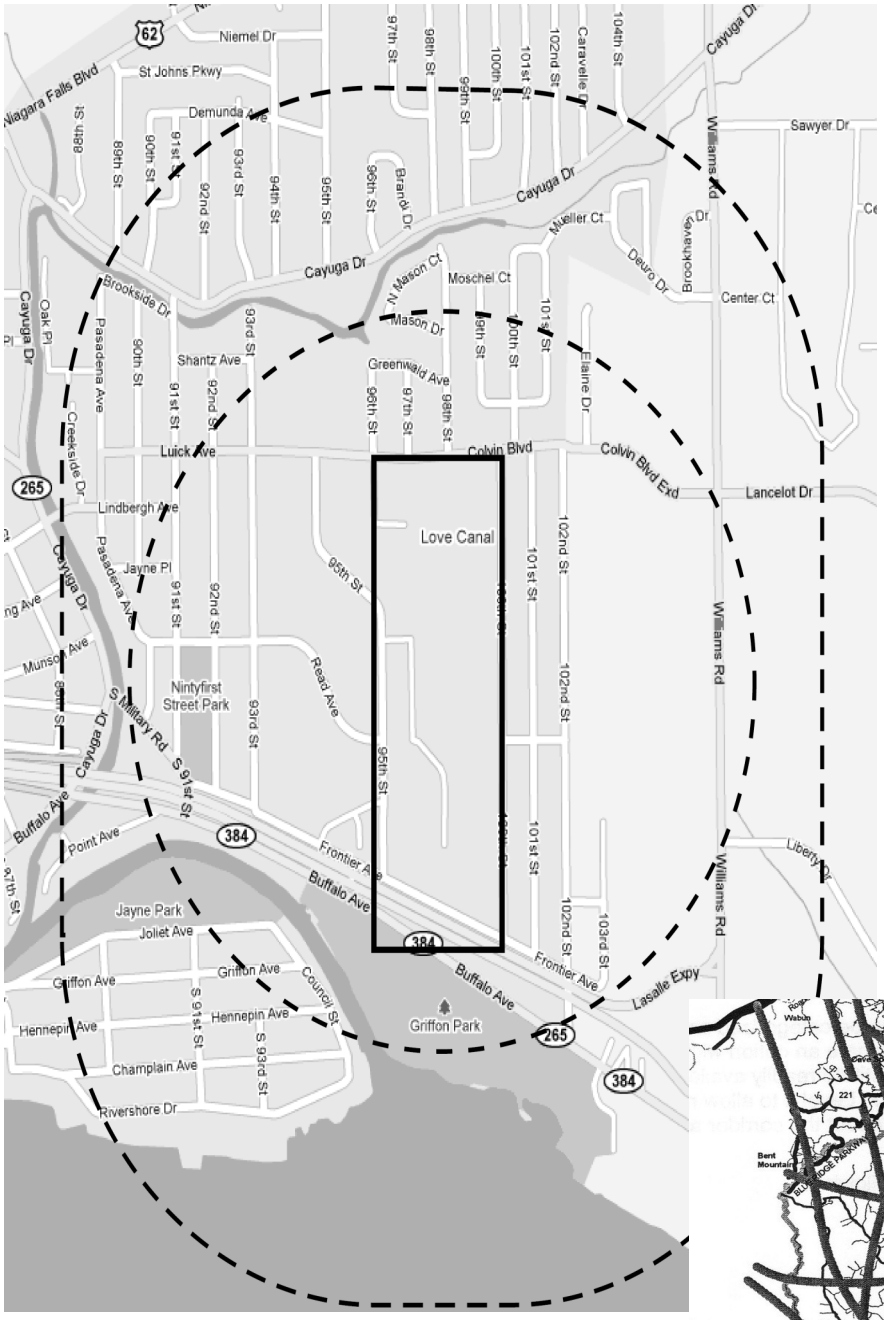
Community groups organizing to protect themselves from large-scale polluting or environmentally-degrading projects have some powerful electronic tools to help them get in touch with their neighbors. These neighbors are people who have a vested interest in maintaining uncontaminated air, water and soil in your neighborhood, protecting the local natural environment, and building environmentally sustainable local economies. How many of them live close enough to the source of pollution to care? How do you get in touch with these people to invite them to join your group? Do you have to go door-to-door? Do you have to purchase a mailing list? What are the costs in money, time, and personnel?

Two BREDL chapters have learned to use electronic mapping systems as a way to accomplish the task of finding and communicating with their constituents – those people living close enough to the source of pollution who might care enough to take a stand with you. The first BREDL chapter to use this method was Virginians for Appropriate Roads (VAR), headquartered in Roanoke and Franklin counties, Virginia.

VAR was inducted as a chapter of BREDL in 1999. The organization's mission is to promote the upgrade and maintenance of existing roads as an alternative building a new 4-to-6-lane federally-funded freeway called Interstate 73 (I-73) through southwestern Virginia. The proposed freeway would have impacted 3,370 acres of forest habitat and more than 52,000 linear feet of stream and associated riparian corridors, exposing over 2,000 households to significantly increased air and noise pollution, and bisected Oak Hill, an Old German Baptist farming district in Franklin County with roots in the 18th century. VAR organized a coalition of neighborhood and nonprofit organizations in the fight against this destructive highway and, despite early successes and years of effective organizing, in 2007 the federal government approved the project for construction. The same year, VAR sued the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under National Environmental Policy Act.

To help pay the attorney's fee, VAR needed to solicit funds from the people whose homes would be taken or severely impacted by the proposed highway. The maps provided by Virginia Department of Transportation weren't much help in identifying local road names near the proposed alignment. (see, for example, a typical "plate of spaghetti" map showing proposed alignments in the I-73 Alternatives Identification and Screening Technical Memorandum) VAR had to do their own mapping. DeLorme TopoUSA, a mapping software system for motorists and hikers, was purchased for about $100. VAR began transposing the proposed highway alignment onto the DeLorme map by marking waypoints that could be recognized on both the DeLorme and FHWA maps. The waypoints were joined with lines, and a target area was created by measuring one half mile on either side of this line -- "ground zero" for people who would bear the worst impacts of road construction. Local road names were identified inside this target area. These local road names, along with the state abbreviation, were inserted into the White Pages reverse lookup (currently called "White Pages Neighbors") on the internet. An up-to-date paper mailing list of people living within one-half mile of the proposed freeway was thus created. Using this new mailing list along with the mailing list developed over many years of organizing, VAR raised over $12,000 to pay legal costs. The people of Franklin County, VA came through generously when asked.

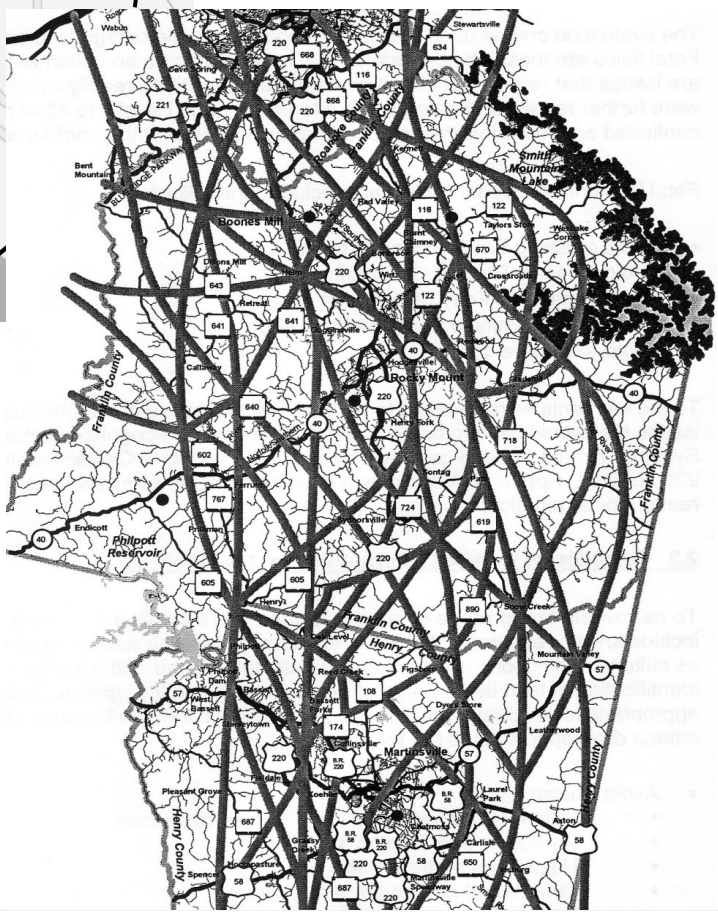
More recently, Neighborhood Environmental Watch (NEW), a BREDL chapter working since 2009 to stop pollution from a steel galvanizing plant in Alamance County, NC, discovered that their county government provides a service that can be used to generate a mailing list within up to a mile radius around a specific address or location. The process involves clicking on the Alamance County online GIS mapping system, identifying a specific address around which you wish to create a mailing list, and using the GIS mapping software to automatically generate a list of names and mailing addresses of landowners within a defined distance from that address. If you know your way around the GIS software, a sizable mailing list can be generated in a matter of minutes.



Statistics for Action
http://sfa.terc.edu

617-873-9600
TERC
2067 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02140

A news report might talk about people who live "within a half-mile radius" of a toxic site. A radius might make you think of a circle. On this map, the inner circles is a half-mile radius from the exact center of the toxic site. The other shape is a half-mile away from the perimeter of the toxic site. If you lived in this neighborhood, which shape would you want to use to describe people who live "within a half-mile radius" of the site?



Map provided by the
Virginia Department of Transportation
looks like a “plate of spaghetti”.

BREDL Chapter VAR used this base to begin a mapping project that eventually raised over $12,000 to help pay campaign legal costs.

Victories, Awards, Gifts and More !

Congratulations to BREDL Chapter **Citizens for Marlboro County** on their recent victory!

Judge Michelle Childs ruled in favor of CMC in a defamation suit brought by MRR Southern waste company. This has been a long and hard fought battle. The court order recounts MRR Southern's claim as follows:

"Plaintiff alleges that Defendant defamed it by publishing false and defamatory statements about Plaintiff in the local newspaper, the Marlboro-Herald Advocate, and on Defendant's website located at www.no-megadump.com. Plaintiff contends that these false and defamatory statements included assertions that Plaintiff's landfill would bring life threatening situations to Marlboro County..."

The court rejected Plaintiff-MRR and agreed with our argument that:

MRR Southern failed to prove that CFMC's communications were false and/or defamatory, that there were special damages; and that they acted with common law malice.■

Statistics for Action

is offering a thank-you gift card for people who are willing to do a review of SfA materials and give feedback. We're asking people to review the website in general:

* two videos
* three SfA activities
* two environmental guides (or one guide if you choose the full version Water Quality guide)

and then fill out a survey sharing your feedback and ideas for where SfA could be used. This link brings you to the survey with all the instructions:

https://surveys.terc.edu/NoviSurvey/n/sfawebsurvey.aspx.

As a token of our thanks, SfA will send you a **gift card worth $40**, while supplies last. At the end of the survey, you can say where to send the card.

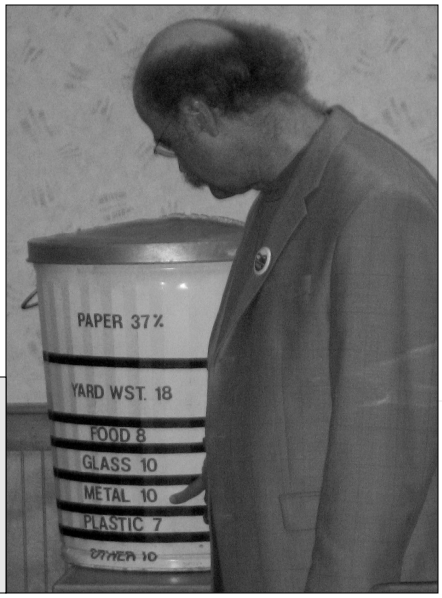
http://sfa.terc.edu

As **BREDL and SfA** often suggest, we use visual tools with math facts in presentations. Here, Lou displays a "recycle can" to BREDL Chapter HEAT members and The League of Women Voters. ►

Horry Environmental Action Team

Third Annual "HEAT is ON" Award to Ocean Bays Middle Breathe Better B2 Campaign

Congratulations to teacher and students and the Ocean Bay Middle School Community. We hope their successful effort will be replicated at every Horry County school.■



Ginny Lawrimore, daughter of longtime BREDL director Janet Marsh, recently rallied troops to donate to and take part in the **2012 Run Amuck with the Duck walk/run to fight lung cancer.**

The third annual walk/run, presented by the Bonnie J. Addairo Lung Cancer Foundation, took place in Gainesville, Florida, on March 31. Proceeds from the event, which is organized by local lung cancer survivors, went toward lung cancer research and early detection.

Marsh was diagnosed with stage 3 1/2 non-small cell lung cancer in June 2011. She is currently undergoing maintenance chemo and is "living every day to the fullest with an absolutely awe-inspiring positive attitude," Lawrimore said.

Many friends, family, and co-workers – including many BREDL staff and volunteers – donated to the cause. Lawrimore's team, "The Little Mommies," which is her nickname for Marsh, came in fifth place overall for fundraising, and Lawrimore's personal donation page ranked fourth place overall.

"When someone you love is diagnosed with cancer, there is an overwhelming feeling of helplessness," said Lawrimore, who lives in Gainesville, Fla., with her husband, Dave. "This was my chance to take action and fight back against lung cancer. Mom deserves to know how many people are fighting for her, because she sure is fighting for us." ■



Ginny Lawrimore, ginnylawrimore@gmail.com ,919-260-8605

(continued from page 10)

Powerful Electronic Mapping Tools

The Alamance County GIS officer said that not all counties in NC or in other states offer GIS, and not all those that have GIS can use the system to generate mailing lists. Whether they do use GIS or have the capacity to generate mailing lists depends on whether the county in question is experiencing sufficient growth to justify the significant financial investment in maintaining not only the GIS software but also the GIS data, which must be regularly updated. Also there are manpower costs associated with the substantial job of educating the public on using the GIS system. It takes times to become acquainted with, and even more time to become proficient at using GIS software, and the various types of proprietary GIS software used by city and county governments are not what you would term “self explanatory” or “intuitive”. Depending on your level of experience with computers, electronic programs, and/or mapping, the learning curve on using GIS mapping systems can be steep, and you may need to get help from the government department that handles GIS mapping in your city or county.

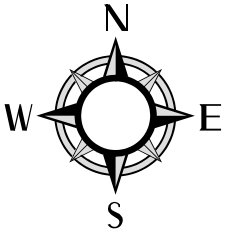
In addition to DeLorme and the GIS systems provided by local governments, Google is now marketing its digital mapping service as a tool for community organizing. To get acquainted with this, go to Google.com and log into your Google account. Or if you don't already have an account, sign up and log in. After you have logged in, click on “My Places,”, then you should see a screen that provides the tools to create a map. You will see that tools appear on the map screen that will allow you to mark points on a map, then join them with a line. This is what you need. You can then upload the map you have created and share it via the internet. Google is now marketing this mapping function as a community organizing tool. At earth.google.com/outreach, you can learn how to add lines, shapes, photos, and videos to your map, and even how to upload your map to Google Earth, where you can view it as a satellite image. One caveat with Google: it doesn't generate city name and zip codes for points on a map. If you are planning a paper mail solicitation and aren't sure of the city name and zip codes for your target area, this could be an impediment. The DeLorme system displays city/zip for any point on the map, and a GIS-generated mailing list will also include them.

Earlier in 2012, BREDL was approached by our colleagues at The Center for Health, Environmental and Justice (CHEJ) to provide a presentation on mapping as a tool for community organizing, to be presented as part of a CHEJ training workshop. It was during the process of preparing the presentation for CHEJ that we first discovered Google's use of mapping as a tool for community organizing. It was also at this time that the NEW chapter disclosed their very successful experience in generating a local mailing list through their Alamance County governmental offices. Thanks to CHEJ for helping BREDL grow our understanding of mapping as a community organizing tool!

As part of their inquiry about mapping as a community organizing tool, TERC and SfA asked BREDL to address the question of the radius around, or distance from a pollution source that should be used as a boundary for the direct mail target. In other words, how far away from a pollution source should your direct mail solicitation be sent? The answer to that is, well it depends! The Alamance County GIS office said they recommend targeting those residents within no more than a mile's radius around a specific address or location. Doing more than that, they said, risks overwhelming the internet-based system with too much data. With the DeLorme/ White Pages method, you are at liberty to draw your mailing list boundary at any distance that seems feasible. The greater the targeted mailing area, the greater your potential impact. But your budget must be capable of supporting the cost of printing and mailing your solicitation to an expanded mailing list. It won't take long to get a mailing list of thousands of names. Also, since the DeLorme/White Pages system is relatively labor intensive, you could reach a point of diminishing returns if you attempted to target too large an area. Your volunteers working on this project could become overwhelmed. Creating a mailing list of all residents within a ½ to 2 -mile radius of an environmentally damaging project makes sense in terms of people's willingness to get involved. These are the people whose back yards are in real jeopardy.

This type of community outreach should be done in addition to outreach that targets interested stakeholders who may or may not live near the pollution source. Every community has people with a strong environmental ethic who will be happy to join your effort and stay for the long haul, even though they may live on the opposite side or town or in a different community entirely. Finding and involving these people is a complicated process and is absolutely essential to the success of any environmental fight.

Do you feel like shouting, “Not in my back yard, not in your back yard, not in anybody's back yard”? Makes sense to us, too! And if you try mapping the properties in your area – let us know how it goes! ■



WELCOME

New BREDL Chapters and 2012 Duke Stanback Interns!

Cumnoch Preservation Association (CPA) in Lee County NC is a rural community right on top of the shale, where it is expected that there are natural gas deposits and widely believed to be "ground zero" for those who want to frack North Carolina.

CPA is dedicated to halting natural gas hydrofracking and preserving the Deep River community where they live. The rural community of Cumnock sits astride the Triassic Basin of Piedmont North Carolina, prime hydrofracking territory, near Sanford.

Website: www.savecumnock.com

SAFE Carolinas in Asheville NC is dedicated to fighting nuclear power with a particular target of Duke Energy's proposed William States Lee III power plant in Gaffney, South Carolina. SAFE Carolinas continues to activate citizens, lobby congress, petition the NRC, and educate the public. Gaffney is only about 70 miles from Asheville where SAFE members live. Safe Carolinas is planning outreach to folks in both states.

Website: www.safecarolinas.org

Jefferson Environmental Defense Initiative (JEDI) in Jefferson County Georgia is an advocate for clean growth for a healthy community. JEDI is dedicated to stopping the proposed North Star Biomass Incinerator to be built between Wadley and Bartow, GA (less than 2 miles upwind from Carver Elementary School)

Website: www.jeffersonedi.com ■

Duke Stanback Interns

Taking Action Against Hot Dip Steel Galvanizing Pollution and Hydrofracking and Radiation Exposure

I am a rising senior at Duke University majoring in biology and environmental science. I am from Atlanta, Georgia. I participated in a program created as a response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill program in Louisiana. I enjoy reading, baking, running, and hiking in my spare time.



Kelsey Behrens

I am currently at Duke University in a master's program for medical physics. I am from Lewistown, Pennsylvania and did my undergraduate degree in physics at Juniata College. I enjoy cooking and reading in my spare time. I also enjoy going hiking and camping in the woods.



Allison Mitchell

2012 BREDL Chapters

Alleghany Citizens for Environmental Safety	**ACES**	asphalt plant
Ashe Citizens Against Pollution	**ACAP**	asphalt plant
Bellefonte Efficiency & Sustainability Team	**BEST**	TVA Bellefonte carbon nuclear free
Camden Citizens Action League	**CCAL**	megadump
Cape Fear Citizens for A Safe Environment	**CFCSE**	Titan, Landfill
Chesterfield Hartland Envir Protection Asso	**CHEPA**	hazardous waste, solid waste, land use
Citizens Alliance for a Clean, Healthy Economy	**CACHE**	Fibrowatt
Citizens for a Healthy Environment	**CHE**	BMWNC medical waste incinerator
Citizens for a Safe Environment	**CSE**	Fibrowatt poultry manure incineration
Citizens for Marlboro County	**CMC**	megadump
Citizens for Positive Growth	**CPG**	asphalt plant
Clean Air Now	**CAN**	Stericycle, medical waste incineration
Cumnock Preservation Association	**CPA**	hydrofracking
Davie Environmental Awareness League	**DEAL**	hazardous waste incinerator
Fieldale and Carver Environmental Society	**FACES**	rock quarry, asphalt plant
Friends of Rich Fork Creek	**FRFC**	water quality
Friends of the Deep River	**FODR**	water quality, sustainability, transportation
Friends of the Green Swamp	**FOGS**	landfill, recycling, water quality,
Greene Citizens for Responsible Growth	**GCRG**	landfill
Group Responsible for A Clean Environment	**GRACE**	solid waste
Horry Environmental Action Team	**HEAT**	zero waste
Iredell Citizens Against Asphalt Plants	**ICAAP**	asphalt Plant
Jefferson Environmental Defense Initiative	**JEDI**	proposed North Star Biomass Incinerator
McDowell Environmental Health Authority	**MEHA**	environment health
Mitchell County Citizens for Clean Air	**MCCCA**	asphalt plant
Neighborhood Environment Watch	**NEW**	hot dip steel galvanizing
People Against A Radioactive Chesapeake	**PAARC**	anti-nuclear
People for a Clean Environment	**PCE**	fluoridation in drinking water proposal
People's Alliance for Clean Energy	**PACE**	Dominion VA Power nuclear plant North Anna
Person County People Rising In Defense of Ecology	**PC PRIDE**	solid wate mega dump, recycling
Piedmont Residents in Defense of the Environment	**PRIDE**	uranium mining and milling operations
Protect All Children's Environment	**PACE**	childrens health
Protect Onslow County Neighborhoods Foundation	**PON**	proposed Morton Trucking Asphalt Plant
Rowan-Iredell Citizens for a Clean Environment	**RICCE**	air quality, HW incinerator
Rutherford County Citizens Against Pollution	**RCCAP**	asphalt plant
Safe Carolinas	**SAFE**	William States Lee III nuclear power plant
Sampson County Citizens for a Safe Environment	**SCCSE**	Fibrowatt
Save Our Abundant Resources	**SOAR**	megadump
Scotland County of Tomorrow	**SCOT**	megadump
Serious Chester County Residents Against Pollution	**SCCRAP**	MSW Incinerator
Shell Bluff Concerned Citizens	**SBCC**	Plant Voglte nuclear reactors expansion
Triad Environmental Action	**TEA**	nuclear waste/ pvc/zero waste
Virginians For Appropriate Roads	**VAR**	roads I-73
Watauga Watershed Alliance	**WWA**	asphalt plant
Water, Air, Land and Lives	**WALL**	Fracking

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BREDL is a regional, community-based non-profit environmental organization founded in 1984. BREDL encourages government agencies and citizens to take responsibility for conserving and protecting our natural resources. BREDL advocates grassroots involvement to empower whole communities in environmental issues.

We are a true league of grassroots chapters working in rural communities in the Southeast. For twenty-eight years the same organizing principles have guided our work: public health protection, environmental democracy, earth stewardship and social justice. Our mission is to prevent harm from air and water pollution and to create sustainable alternatives for sound waste management and economic development. Protecting children's health from environmental poisons, empowering whole communities to engage in crucial decision making, and changing the balance of power to prevent injustice are key components of our work.

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