

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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GROUPS CALL FOR REGULATION OF FRACKING AIR EMISSIONS

At a press conference today, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL), joined by Alamance, Anson and Lee County residents, called on the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to require regulation of fracking air emissions. Speaking in front of a backdrop of black balloons, BREDL community organizer Therese Vick said, “These balloons represent the dozens of toxic substances that will be emitted in communities across the state. The Environmental Management Commission is responsible for protecting the air we breathe, and must require that air quality rules for fracking be developed.”

Denise Lee, speaking for Pee Dee Water Air Land and Lives (WALL) commented, “Many residents of rural Anson County are medically underserved. Having hundreds of virtually unregulated industrial sources emitting poisons into our community will affect people already struggling with health problems. I have 5 grandchildren, and I am very concerned.”

Debbie Hall from Lee County and a member of Cumnock Preservation Association invited the Commissioners to come and sit with her on her back porch. “Lee County doesn’t have thousands of acres of wide open spaces. With the huge increase of truck traffic and the siting of hundreds of well pads, almost every backyard could be affected.”

The group presented a letter to EMC Chairman Benne Hutson and all Commissioners spelling out the air quality effects that have been studied in states where fracking is occurring. For example, a 2012 study conducted by the Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado, concluded that air pollution caused by high-volume horizontal drilling and ancillary activities “may contribute to acute and chronic health problems for those living near natural gas drilling sites.”

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League is a regional, community-based, non-profit environmental organization founded in 1984. Our founding principles are earth stewardship, environmental democracy, social justice, and community empowerment.

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