

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) * Center for a Sustainable Coast * Concerned Citizens of Shell Bluff * Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club * Georgia Women's Action for New Directions (Georgia WAND) * Savannah Riverkeeper * Southern Alliance for Clean Energy * Southern Environmental Law Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Hearing to Discuss Massive Water Withdrawal Permit from the Savannah River for New Vogtle Nuclear Reactors: Citizens, Organizations to Express Concerns

What: The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is holding an important [public hearing](#) this Thursday, May 8 to hear the concerns of Georgia's and South Carolina's upstream and downstream residents, communities and businesses that rely on the Savannah River as EPD considers approving the massive [surface water withdrawal permit request](#) from Southern Nuclear for the two new Vogtle reactors under construction near Waynesboro. Residents are encouraged to attend and comment on the draft permit.

The reactors, which could operate for 60 or more years, could withdraw up to 74 million gallons of water per day (gpd) from the river. This would be in addition to the 127 million gpd of water that the existing two reactors are already permitted to withdraw. The consumptive loss, water that is never returned, will be significant, with tens of millions of gallons lost per day. EPD has acknowledged a worst-case scenario of consumptive losses up to 88%.

When: Thursday, May 8, 2014 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Who: Local residents and advocates for clean, safe and less water-intensive energy choices including Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Center for a Sustainable Coast, Concerned Citizens of Shell Bluff, Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club, Georgia Women's Action for New Directions, Savannah Riverkeeper, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and others will be available for media interviews regarding the threats the Vogtle expansion pose to the Savannah River and the surrounding communities.

Where: Augusta Technical College Auditorium, 216 Highway 24 South, Waynesboro, GA. For directions call 706.437.6801.

The public can sign up to speak at the meeting; a sign-up sheet will be available on a first-come-first-to-speak basis. The EPD is accepting written comments until 4:30 pm on Thursday, May 15. Public comments may be emailed to EPDComments@dnr.state.ga.us with the subject line "Plant Vogtle" or by regular mail: Branch Chief, Watershed Protection Branch, Suite 1152, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SE, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334.

For more information, visit <http://www.cleanenergy.org/protect-the-savannah-river-from-plant-vogtles-big-thirst/>. From there, you can find the [meeting notice](#), the [draft permit](#) and [previously filed comments](#). For further information from EPD, contact the Watershed Protection Branch (404) 463-1511.

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Founded in 1985, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy is a nonprofit organization that promotes responsible energy choices that create global warming solutions and ensure clean, safe, and healthy communities throughout the Southeast. Learn more at www.cleanenergy.org.