

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

www.BREDL.org

4617 Pearl Rd Raleigh NC 27610

(919) 345-3673

therese.vick@gmail.com

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CONTACT:

Therese Vick: (919) 345-3673 therese.vick@gmail.com

GROUND AND SURFACE WATER MONITORING REPORTS REVEAL THAT FOREVER CHEMICAL 1,4 DIOXANE CONTAMINATION AT CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION LANDFILLS IS WIDESPREAD

Raleigh- A review of ground and surface water monitoring reports submitted to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by construction and demolition (CDLF) landfills shows that 1,4 dioxane has been found in ground and/or surface water at most sites. Of the over 50 facilities reviewed, over 40 show varying levels of 1,4 dioxane. It has also been detected in leachate from some of these facilities. In Huntersville near the Greenway Waste Solutions landfill, dioxane was found in offsite private water supply wells. The company has purchased two of the properties. Dioxane is an unregulated “forever” chemical and a likely carcinogen.

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) organizer Therese Vick conducted the review. She commented, “We are concerned about those that drink from private wells in the communities near these CDLF’s. Dioxane has contaminated aquifers across the country. In addition, when leachate is collected, where does it go? Most wastewater treatment plants are not equipped to remove the chemical; it often ends up in water bodies like rivers that are the source of drinking water. Testing has only been required since 2018, neighbors may have been drinking water tainted with this chemical for years.” 1,4 dioxane does not readily biodegrade and is “miscible”—it dissolves easily in water— and is difficult to remove.

BREDL believes it is irresponsible for DEQ to continue to slow walk regulation of 1,4 dioxane. Close to 2.4 million North Carolinians depend on the safety of the wells they use for drinking water.

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