U.S. Supreme Court Rules to Uphold Virginia's Moratorium on Uranium Mining

June 2019 When the news broke on June 17 that the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled to uphold Virginia's moratorium on uranium mining, it seemed that a jubilant round of emails and phone calls was in order to congratulate BREDL's chapter, Piedmont Residents in Defense of the Environment (PRIDE), who had fought to prevent uranium mining at the Coles Hill site in Pittsylvania County, VA, since 2007. It seemed the right moment to look back at the astonishing breadth and duration of civic organizing in support of keeping Virginia's ban on uranium mining, in which the stalwart BREDL chapter, PRIDE, has played an exemplary role. And it seemed a good time to remember the people in the PRIDE chapter, and to reminisce on their determination, hard work, civility, and engaging intelligence.

A little history is in order. According to Uranium Mining in Virginia: Scientific, Technical, Environmental, Human Health and Safety, and Regulatory Aspects of Uranium Mining and Processing in Virginia (National Academies Press, 2012), the Coles Hill uranium deposit was discovered in 1978 and explored in the 1980s by Marline Uranium Corp. In 1982, citing the need for additional regulations governing uranium mining, the Virginia General Assembly enacted the moratorium. Responding to a rise in the price of uranium, the Walter Coles, Sr. family and another family whose land held the uranium ore formed Virginia Uranium, Inc. in 2006 and initiated new exploration of Coles Hill.

As described in virginiaplaces.org, in 2011 Virginia Uranium Inc. estimated the Coles Hill deposit to be worth $7 billion and to contain 119 million pounds of uranium, of which 63 million pounds exceeded 0.06% uranium and thus was economical to process, capable of generating revenues of $2.1 to $3.5 billion over 35 years.

In 2012, a Vancouver, British Columbia firm, Virginia Energy Resources, Inc. acquired 100% ownership of the Coles Hill deposit. Walter Coles, Sr. and family members have remained active in the operations of this firm, including the ongoing effort to repeal Virginia's ban on uranium mining. Said Mr. Coles in response to the June 17 Supreme Court decision, “We are still studying the Supreme Court's opinions, but we are obviously disappointed with the result. We continue to think that Virginia's uranium mining ban is both unlawful and unwise, and we are reviewing other options for challenging the Commonwealth's confiscation of Virginia Uranium's mineral estate.”

(continued on page 10)
and environmental justice, we have learned that empowering new Safe Energy Campaign. Victories over twenty scoring asphalt plants, four medical incinerator in Martinsville, won the Board convinced their Board effectively blocking scores. In Greene County, NC. Further, with our chapters incinerator in Watauga County, NC. and 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 hopelessness out of helplessness like a successful grassroots campaign - and our chapters have a history of winning. For over 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.
On June 21, 2019, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) directed Charah, the company that owns the Chatham and Lee County North Carolina coal ash dumps to:

“… acquire the services of a North Carolina licensed professional geologist and submit a groundwater and surface water assessment work plan to the Section outlining how the reported constituents contamination in the relevant monitoring wells and SW1 [surface water monitoring location] will be delineated.

The letter also stated that corrective action may be required depending on the results of the investigation.

The lined landfill, filled with millions of tons of Duke Energy’s coal ash, was permitted in fewer than 7 months, and is less than 4 years old. DEQ’s letter mirrors concerns that Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) and our Chapter Chatham Citizens Against Coal Ash Dump (CCACAD) have had for months. The unsuitability of the site, the rush to permit and the inevitability of landfill failure were a recipe for disaster.

Charah also holds a permit for a Lee County coal ash landfill, although the site has not yet been constructed. BREDL and our chapters CCACAD and EnvironmentaLee filed a legal challenge against DEQ in 2015 and continue to oppose the projects.

It is time for North Carolina to have a conversation about the just disposition of this dangerous waste. The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League does not support landfilling or incineration of coal ash. It should be stored above ground, isolated from the environment.

It is time for North Carolina to have a conversation about the just disposition of this dangerous waste. The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League does not support landfilling or incineration of coal ash. It should be stored above ground, isolated from the environment.

We tried to warn you, landfills leak.

By Therese Vick

If your community is concerned about coal ash contact BREDL.
Is mobilizing an environmental campaign the same as organizing one? For thirty-five years the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League has employed community organizer principles, people, and practices. Despite specialty titles, all members of our paid staff are designated community organizers. The difference between organizing and mobilizing is important to understanding our success.

The dictionary defines organizing as “coordinating the activities of a group of people efficiently.” It differs from mobilizing, which is “encouraging people to act in a concerted way in order to bring about a particular political objective.” Both methods have merit, but are distinct in approach, utility and impact. Done together, they can have a synergistic effect, more than the sum of the parts. However, mobilizing done at the expense of organizing shortchanges the resources needed to build a lasting movement for social change.

Simply stated, community organizing enables the innate power of the members of a community to overcome an obstacle. The community organizer does not “empower” a group; that is a legal term in which one invests power in another person for protection. No, the community’s power is already present. It may not be acknowledged or recognized, but it is there, nevertheless. The community organizer’s first task is to point out that the power is there, in people’s hands. This realization may come in a variety of ways, depending on the organizer and the group: historic examples, storytelling, musical or dance presentations and so forth all may work. Once revealed, the next step is to coordinate the activities of the individuals in the group to use its collective power to accomplish a specific goal. In this way, the power of the group grows and becomes better directed. Experience and confidence enable further success.

The group’s ability to use its power relies on a functioning organization. This means it has an open process of decision-making and clear lines of accountability. It is not a top-down authority; that is, a business model approach. But there must be a structure which allows people to know what the group is doing. Good tactics rarely rely on secrecy. The right to assemble, speak and seek redress have been under attack since the beginning of the Republic, but have withstood the onslaughts brought by Federalists, McCarthyism, COINTELPRO and more recent anti-democratic initiatives. In fact, secrecy can be counterproductive. Jo Freeman, feminist leader and writer, based her essay “The Tyranny of Structurelessness” on the misguided efforts of those who sought to change society for the better without the baggage of traditional structures. But abandoning all structure and substituting a “network” or leaderless effort merely allowed strong personalities to dominate the agenda, and do it without accountability. Freeman wrote: “For everyone to have the opportunity to be involved in a given group and to participate in its activities, the structure must be explicit, not implicit. The rules of decision-making must be open and available to everyone, and this can happen only if they are formalized.”

So, avoiding rigid structures is made possible by establishing an openly agreed-upon democratic decision-making process. This is what we look for in every BREDL chapter.
Eventually, the group seeks to expand, reaching out to other members of the community, some in agreement but uninvolved and others merely skeptical. How can one sharpen an argument by arguing with like-minded people? Outreach forces a dialogue by convincing skeptics and fence-sitters, those not liking your Facebook posts or listening to NPR.

For example, in Madison County, North Carolina, activists confronted a toxic asphalt factory proposed for their community. In order to reach the most conservative segment of the rural population, they resorted to a local AM radio station. In between the farm reports and gospel music, the following message was delivered: “Listen up, Madison! An asphalt plant is proposed across the road from a nursing home and a childcare center…. My children, your elderly parents, our neighbors, the risks are too great.”

In this hardscrabble mountain county Sustainable Madison raised $50,000 in small donations. The county board voted to prohibit the plant.

Once organized, a group may take part in mobilizing campaigns in support of a common goal. Climate change issues are notable here because the issue is global. Activist groups launch efforts to mobilize the grassroots. The mobilizing is done via Internet and mass media efforts. The call for support is typically extended to already-organized groups who share the goal.

In my experience, mobilizing activists to accomplish a goal usually seeks out those in agreement and signs them onto a list. This can be effective. There is power in numbers. But if the number falls short, if the activists already in agreement cannot muster a constituency from the already-active, how can growth occur? If mobilizing is superficial, the campaign may falter.

Marshall Ganz, an organizer for civil rights and farmworkers campaigns in the 60s, observes the fifty-year trend away from organizing and towards mobilizing:

“Since the ‘70s, it’s been moving more and more toward mobilizing and away from organizing…. So they wind up just being these moments, but they don’t really turn into movements because of a lack of organizational capacity.”

Activists linked by social media alone comprise loose networks which lack structure, useful for some tasks but woefully inadequate for others. Malcomb Gladwell, journalist and author, points out that new tools of social media may have reinvented social activism but that:

“The drawbacks of networks scarcely matter if the network isn’t interested in systemic change—if it just wants to frighten or humiliate or make a splash—or if it doesn’t need to think strategically. But if you’re taking on a powerful and organized establishment you have to be a hierarchy.”

So, if you want to get information out to people rapidly, social media is the ticket. But if you want to alter the balance of power, the dedicated pick-n-shovel work of community organizing is still the key to transformational social change. And a democratically governed, accountable hierarchy is the organizational model which will have the wherewithal to increase capacity, expand the group, raise the funds and build the movement.

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The Value Exceeds Our Imagination

By Charles Utley and Sharon Ponton

We must take a closer look at what has been passed down through generations in our families and how it has been misused. There is no value that you can put on the precious commodity called land. All the land available is already present. Sadly, climate change indicates we will lose land mass if we do not take steps to stop its effects. Knowing these facts, the land our families acquired, worked and sweated to preserve from generation to generation must be protected.

The relocation of the families from the contamination and flooding in Hyde Park, located in Augusta, GA, is a good example of how others fail to see the value of those who have worked diligently for generations, to have a legacy of land to pass to the next generation. Further, we are aware that poor people and communities of color have been forced to host polluting industry in the history of our country. We are also aware these same communities are forced to give up land for easements for these industries. These facts have played an integral part in stopping these properties owned by communities of color from increasing in value as would normally occur without those polluting industries.

Currently the path of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and its industrial-sized toxic compressor stations are being sited in communities of color, including those of indigenous peoples and poor rural communities throughout Virginia and North Carolina. Generally, these communities do not have the wherewithal to mount the necessary fight it takes to win battles against multi-billion dollar corporations such as Dominion and Duke Energy.

When our governments, whether local, state or federal, give little or no consideration to what it means to have such a great asset taken away from a family it causes discord with those who are in authority. Whether caused by ignoring facts which prove environmental racism or other inappropriate considerations in permit approval, or contamination, extraction, or greed, bureaucrats consistently rubber stamp permits which allow loss of cherished legatee property. Once gone, there is no substitute. We see an intersectionality between economic, environmental and social justice continuing to allow the oppression of these communities.

According to Malcolm X, “Land is the basis of independence and Land is the Basis of Freedom, Justice and Equality”. This is a very true statement and until we grasp the concept that there is no more land being created, then we will never understand the true meaning of independence. According to Melony Edwards, Farm Manager at Willowood Farm of Ebey’s Prairie, “Land is the Basis of Freedom, Justice, and Equality, when it comes to quality of our food”. We totally agree with both Edwards and Malcolm X’s statements. The diminishing quality of our environment is causing a diminishing in quality of food being grown in that environment. The increased amount of contamination in our soils, from both airborne and applied contamination, is having a major impact on our food chain.

Owning our own land, away from polluting industries which are sources of the degradation of our environment, secures our future to grow quality food for our families while providing an alternative to industrialized farming processes which include using genetically modified seed to weed killers which not only kill weeds but contaminate the food we eat.

The value of family land whether large or small parcels, deserves our protection. We must not be intimidated with threats from local, state, or federal agencies when it comes to standing up for our Land Inheritance. Our land has more value to our families’ existence than to any developers’ ambitions.

Ms. Edwards states; “Agricultural land is a great natural resource, and Black Americans simply do not have a seat at that table, especially when it comes to farmlands”. Therefore, this injustice to equal opportunity to own and maintain is being denied and that makes it more important to hold on to the land that our forefathers have worked and even gone through slavery to achieve.

Black Americans, poor Americans and yes, all Americans, deserve the protection and freedom to be able to maintain their family legacy through their land inheritance. We must maintain our freedom, justice and equality while maintaining our Independence. We must stand shoulder-to-shoulder showing solidarity through a uniform front to protect the legacy of heired property. You will soon hear more from us about a new BREDL project regarding these legacy properties. ■
Kristina McKeen  
**School:** Duke University  
**Hometown:** Richmond and Durham, NC  
I am currently a rising senior at Duke University, studying environmental sciences and policy as well as ethics. During the school year, I enjoy working at Walltown Children's Theatre, a nonprofit performing arts center in Durham. I also enjoy drawing, baking, and hiking in my free time. As a lifelong resident of the Southeast via Richmond and Durham, I grew up loving the beautiful environment that surrounded me. Because of this, I am honored to contribute to BREDL and its dedication to fighting for the communities and ecosystems of the Southeast through community engagement as a research assistant.

George Jones 3rd  
**School:** Paine College  
**Hometown:** Augusta, GA  
I will complete undergrad as a history major in fall to become an educator in high school. My interests involve learning the relationship between the aboriginal people and the European colonizers and how their relationship shapes today’s society. Future endeavors involve furthering my education by gaining a Masters of Arts in Teaching and taking on the task of teaching in lower income areas. The goal is to bring awareness of gentrification through the use of history and to sharpen the minds of the young adults. I am also member of The Collegiate 100, an organization that focuses on mentoring the youth in the community. I was a scholar athlete on the Paine basketball team. When I am not involved with sports, school, or mentoring I love to spend time with my family and son. **Intern Project:** My focus for the BREDL internship with my advisor Rev. Charles Utley is to bring about awareness in the community of the Heir properties that are being “stolen” by major companies. I am proactively giving insight to land owners and informing the younger generations of this serious matter and how the community can combat these insidious occurrences in our communities.

Lauren Dunn  
**School:** Duke University  
**Hometown:** Maryville, TN  
I just graduated from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a business management major and an environmental science minor. I am starting a Master of Environmental Management degree program at Duke University this fall where I hope to focus on business and the environment or city planning/sustainable development. In my free time, I enjoy going to the gym, playing with my dogs, volunteering at the animal shelter and watching sports.  
**Internship Goals:** Throughout my time with BREDL this summer, I am working on enhancing, improving, and analyzing internal and external communications across the organization. I am starting with an internal survey before moving on to other projects such as, but not limited to, updating the SECC Media Workshop booklet, developing a media campaign, completing media contact lists, analyzing website statistics, and finding contacts at surrounding colleges/universities.
MVP-Southgate Project to bring third natural gas compressor station and more toxins to Chatham, VA
By Mark Barker

The Mountain Valley Pipeline -Southgate extension project will bring a planned third compressor station to a rural area just outside the town limits of Chatham Virginia. If built, this would site three compressor stations adjacent to each other. The proposed MVP Lambert station would join existing Transco Stations 165 & 166.

Operations at Transco Station 165 began in the late 1950s. Transco Station 166 was approved by FERC in November 2013 with construction during 2014 and 2015. The MVP Lambert Station is still in the permitting process. Transco Station 165 is also in a permitting process for major changes to accommodate an increase of 296.375 thousand dekatherms per day. The Transco changes include replacing 10 engines with 2 turbines, which is projected to reduce annual emissions of some pollutants.

MVP submitted the Lambert Air Permit Application in November. MVP stated that the Solar turbines would be equipped with Solar’s SoLoNOx dry low NOx combustor technology for NOx control. This reduces the conversion of nitrogen to NOx by reducing the flame temperature. The control is enhanced by premix fuel and combustor airflows. In the November application, MVP stated that the vendor provided emission rates of 15 ppmvd for NOx, 25 ppmvd for CO, 25 ppmvd for unburned hydrocarbons and 5 ppmvd for VOC (parts per million dry volume @ 15% O2).

Potential Emissions for Lambert Station – Prior to Revised Application (Tons per Year)

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>NOx</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>VOC</th>
<th>PM</th>
<th>PM10</th>
<th>PM2.5</th>
<th>SO2</th>
<th>Total HAPS</th>
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<tr>
<td>MVP Lambert*</td>
<td>55.58</td>
<td>66.08</td>
<td>9.07</td>
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<td>14.96</td>
<td>14.96</td>
<td>5.25</td>
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* MVP Lambert emissions from November 8, 2018 application.

Based on the November application, MVP was required to evaluate Best Available Control Technology for NOx and PM2.5. For PM2.5, MVP selected the use of clean-burning fuels (natural gas) and good combustion practices as the effective control – thus no add on controls. MVP cited this choice as being consistent with BACT at other similar facilities. For NOx control, MVP selected their SoLoNOx technology for the Solar turbines and DLN Combustor Technology for the Capstone micro-turbines. MVP said that Selective Catalytic Reduction would be too costly. MVP did reference the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline Buckingham County Compressor Station which proposes using SCR technology along with the SoLoNOx technology. However, MVP said that ACP volunteered to use SCR and that should not apply to MVP.

In a December 5, 2018 letter to MVP, Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality inquired about the NOx emission rate. VA DEQ asked MVP to confirm that it is 15 ppmvd and not 9 ppmvd. VA DEQ also asked if an emergency generator would be used. On December 14 MVP responded to VA DEQ that the NOx rate is 15 ppmvd not 9 ppmvd. MVP also clarified that the microturbines would be the source of power with utility power serving as a backup.

VA DEQ disagreed with the MVP NOx control assessment. In a February 15, 2019 letter to MVP, VA DEQ determined that the BACT for NOx would be SoLoNOx with SCR to achieve an emission rate of 3.75 ppmvd.

However, on April 25 MVP submitted a revised application to VA DEQ. Lo and behold, MVP now states it will use “Advanced” SoLoNOx technology to reach a NOx rate of 9 ppmvd. This also reduced the emission rates for the Solar Taurus 70 turbine to 15 ppmvd for CO, 15 ppmvd for unburned hydrocarbons and 3 ppmvd for VOC. The previous emissions rates, except for NOx, remained the same as listed in the November application for the Solar Mars 100 turbine. The NOx changed to 9 ppmvd for both planned turbines. This new emission rate reduced projected NOx emissions below the BACT threshold of 40 tons per year. In the revised application, MVP only evaluated BACT for PM2.5. The BACT threshold for PM2.5 is 10 tons per year. The BACT selected for PM2.5 remained the same as in the November application. VA DEQ recently stated that they are still processing the revised permit application and have not made “a determination regarding BACT applicability.”

Air modeling for both the proposed MVP Lambert station and the Transco station 165 changes have not been completed by VA DEQ. On May 20, when BREDL inquired about the air modeling, VA DEQ responded “There has been very little activity to date on the modeling of these 2 facilities.”

On January 10 VA DEQ comments to FERC regarding the MVP Southgate project stated, “DEQ requests that FERC fully consider the cumulative impacts of these projects” in reference to the various pipeline projects in the region. BREDL, in turn, will comment to VA DEQ that they should “fully consider the cumulative impacts of these projects” in reference to the compressor stations in Chatham.

Hazardous Air Pollutant emissions for all three compressor stations include Acetaldehyde, Acrolein, Benzene, 1,3-Butadiene, Ethylbenzene, Formaldehyde, Hexane, Naphthalene, Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, Propylene Oxide, Toluene and Xylenes. Several of these toxins are carcinogenic. Some cause gene mutations and reproductive or embryo damage. Most cause irritations of skin, eyes, nose, throat and lungs. The Lambert station will add an additional 9000 pounds of these toxins to the air.
Total Compressor Stations Potential Emissions (Tons per Year)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>NOx</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>VOC</th>
<th>PM</th>
<th>PM10</th>
<th>PM2.5</th>
<th>SO2</th>
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*MVP Lambert Revised emissions from April 25, 2019 revised application.

1 Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company, LLC, Southeastern Trail Project, Air Permit Application, Compressor Station 165, June 20, 2018, Table 2-1, p.4 and MVP, LLC - Lambert Compressor Station, Southgate Project, Article 6 Air Permit Application - Revision 1, April 25, 2019, Table 2-2, p. 8

**Transco Stations 165 & 166 potential emissions after proposed changes to Station 165. Transco combines emission data for both stations 165 and 166 in its application for modifications at station 165.

Proposed Lambert Station Equipment
- 5 Capstone microturbines
- 1 Solar Mars 100 turbine
- 1 Solar Taurus 70 turbine

Proposed Equipment changes at Transco Station 165
- Install 2 Solar Titan 130 turbines
- Remove 10 Clark reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE)
- Retain 1 Clark RICE
- Retain 1 Caterpillar RICE
- Add a 4th emergency generator

Equipment at Transco Station 166
- 4 Solar Taurus 70 turbines
- 2 emergency generators

Map comprised from Pittsylvania County, VA Zoning map highlighting MVP Southgate parcel.

VA DEQ currently does not have a timeframe for public participation for either the new MVP Lambert station or the changes at Transco's Station 165.
During the past 30 years, as word of plans to mine the Coles Hill site circulated among the communities both upstream and downstream of the now Canadian-owned deposit, a group of organizations formed under the name Keep the Ban Coalition. Its core membership consisted of PRIDE and 15 other nonprofit organizations, including the Dan River Basin Association, Roanoke River Basin Association, Friends of the Earth, League of Individuals for the Environment (one of the earliest groups to organize against uranium mining in Pittsylvania County), Virginia Sierra Club, Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Southern Environmental Law Center, and others. A whopping 38 municipal governments, including 14 in North Carolina, as well as 53 nonprofit organizations were listed by Keep the Ban Coalition as having taken action related to keeping the ban.

BREDL's involvement in the uranium mining fight included organizing in 2012 with Roanoke, VA pastors Amy Ziglar and Sherman Lea, and longtime environmental activist Rupert Cutler, to obtain support for keeping the ban among a coalition of African American pastors. The press release announcing the pastor's support for keeping the ban received "top of the front page" coverage in the January 5, 2013 Roanoke Times.

Additionally, in 2012 BREDL conducted surveying, mapping, and research in support of a Preservation Virginia Most Endangered Site designation of an area encompassing the proposed mine/milling site, which we named the Whitehorn-Banister Rural Historic Landscape. PRIDE members Deborah Lovelace and Brian Motley generously shared their extensive knowledge of historic sites in this area, including an ancient Native American fishing weir in the Banister River. Their willingness to share their knowledge of the impressive historic and prehistoric resources inside the Whitehorn-Banister Rural Historic Landscape made the nomination a success.

The #1 risk factor plaguing the proposal to mine and mill uranium in Pittsylvania County is the radioactive contamination from the millions of tons of waste created during the uranium milling process. These waste products, called "tailings," will remain radioactive for thousands of years and must be kept from getting into the air and water throughout that period. The Coles Hill site, where the tailings would be stored underground, encompasses three FEMA flood zones contiguous with Mill and Whitehorn Creeks and the Banister River. Flooding occurs there on a regular basis. One such flood in November, 2009 was chronicled by PRIDE member, George Stanhope, and his photos were used by BREDL to illustrate a map of the Coles Hill site. On the map at right, the lines indicate the boundaries of the North and South Exploration Areas at Coles Hill, and the dots indicate sites where Mr. Stanhope took photos of flooding on November 11 and 12, 2009.

When she learned of the Supreme Court's decision to uphold Virginia's ban on uranium mining, PRIDE chair and spokesperson, Karen Maute, did not join others in jubilant calls for celebration, but rather expressed caution informed by 11 years of fighting to keep the ban. She said there are other avenues that Virginia Energy Resources, Inc. can pursue now that their Supreme Court challenge has failed, including lobbying local and state legislators and Congress, and more importantly perhaps, a court challenge alleging that the ban on uranium mining is a "taking" of the firm's property without just compensation.

"I worry how people are equipped to deal with this," she said, adding, "It's more important now than ever that the coalition to keep Virginia's ban on uranium mining stay together. We need new people who are going to be active."
Link to an illustrated map of the Coles Hill uranium mine site.
Created by BREDL’s Ann Rogers

https://app.box.com/s/5pi2uzju6mlj6157t4tsg903u04xr54
Visit www.bredl.org to view our interactive timeline that spans 30 years of environmental work across the southeast.

Your donation will help us to carry on for years to come!

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 in environmental issues. 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.

Visit www.bredl.org to view our interactive timeline that spans 30 years of environmental work across the southeast.

Your donation will help us to carry on for years to come!

Thank you for supporting Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

It’s easier than ever to join, renew and donate online.

Check out our secure online donation forms and use your credit card at www.BREDL.org.

Or send your check to: BREDL PO Box 88 Glendale Springs, NC 28629

For more information contact BREDL at 336-982-2691.

All donations are tax deductible.

Name______________________________________________________________

Street______________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip________________________________________________________

Email: _____________________________________________________________

Date_____________________________________________

Chapter__________________________________________

BREDL
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NC 28629