



## BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

Making the Southeast better, one community at a time [www.bredl.org](http://www.bredl.org)

# The LEAGUE LINE

Winter 2015

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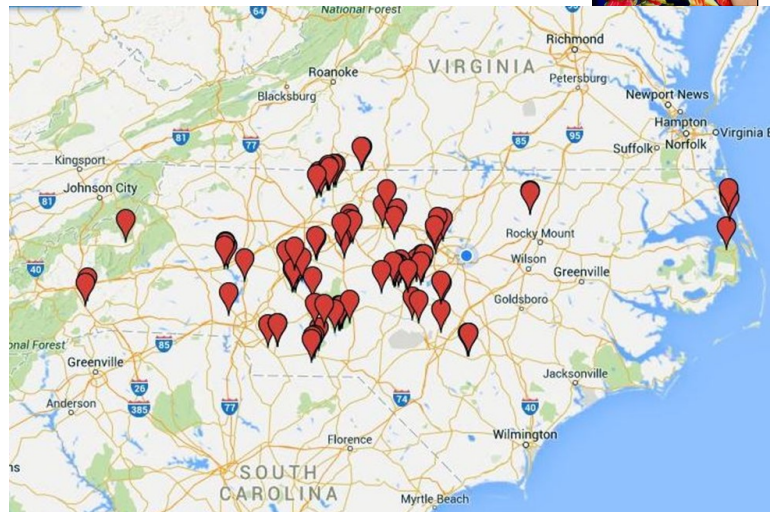
## Toxic Coal Ash-Coming Soon to a Backyard Near You?

Therese Vick

On November 13, 2014, officials and residents in two North Carolina counties were shocked to discover that Duke Energy was planning to dump millions of tons of toxic coal ash in clay mines located there. Charah, Inc., a coal ash management company, purchased the Lee and Chatham county sites through a limited liability corporation ironically called "Green Meadow."

BREDL Chapter Environmental and other BREDL members have been instrumental in organizing the opposition to this plan, and both counties have passed resolutions opposing plan.

The dumping scheme, which is allowed by the NC Coal Ash  
(continued on page 5)



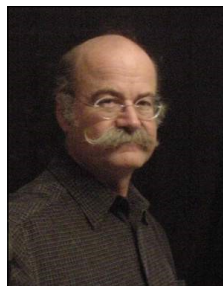
## Re-use of Coal Ash Re-introduces Contamination

Louis A. Zeller

January 11, 2015

Coal ash is a toxic substance. The reintroduction of any poison into the environment under the guise of "beneficial use"<sup>1</sup> merely transfers the problem from one medium to another and from one community to another. Regarding coal ash reuse, the National Academies state, "The evaluation of risks and benefits is always a complicated analysis, confounded by who may bear the risks and who may accrue the benefits."<sup>2</sup>

The annual production of coal ash, also called *coal combustion residues* or CCR, in the United States is about 120 million tons per year. Most of this, 58%, is simply dumped into landfills and surface impoundments on power plant sites. The second-largest category—46 million tons, 37%—is "alternatives use," using the ash in commercial products and construction. The balance is utilized as fill at mining sites.<sup>3</sup>



Methods of using ash by incorporating it into road building and cement block construction have been tried and the results are unsatisfactory. That the ash becomes immobilized is a common but false claim. Research indicates that contaminants in the ash, heavy metals in particular, are leached from roadways and cement blocks made with ash, endangering the environment and public health. For example, in Newcastle, UK, hazardous levels of heavy metals were found where ash from a local incinerator had been applied on local pathways.<sup>4</sup>

According to the EPA, alternative use of coal ash has contaminated water at more than 16 sites in nine states. Independent studies have documented 10 sites in four other states.<sup>5</sup> In Indiana, coal ash used on highways polluted drinking water with arsenic, chromium and molybdenum. In Chesapeake, Virginia, coal ash used to build a golf course released arsenic, lead and chromium into nearby streams.

A triple threat to public health is the mixing of coal ash with hydrofracking waste water sent to municipal solid waste landfills. According to an industry spokesman: (continued on page 4)



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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.

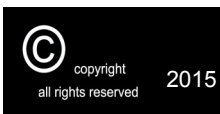
## **Moving into the future**

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 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. ■



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P.O. Box 88, Glendale Springs, NC 28629  
Tel: 336-982-2691 Fax: 336-982-2954  
email: bredl@skybest.com  
www.bredl.org

Editor: Kate Dunnagan (919) 417-4939  
Katedunnagan@gmail.com

## **Contributing writers:**

Louis Zeller, Therese Vick, Mara Robbins, Getra Hanes Selph, Charles Utley, Renee Cail, Michael Noll, Terica Luxton, Fred First, Garry Morgan, Mark Barker, Natasha Laity-Snyder

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## Are you Rosa Parks, or Claudette Colvin?

Winter 2015

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—On March 2, 1955 a young black woman was arrested on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, because she would not yield her seat to a white passenger. Her name was not Rosa Parks.

Along with Rev. Dr. King and others, we remember Rosa Louise McCauley Parks. The Montgomery Bus Boycott is at an epicenter of American history. Her birthday is a holiday in some states. Her statue stands in the U.S. Capitol. But few remember Claudette Colvin.

Like Rosa Parks, Claudette Colvin was arrested for defying segregation. Both were members of the same local NAACP chapter. Both were vital to the movement. Both had the courage to act. They and others like them deserve honor and recognition. But only the one is well-known.

Sister Colvin committed her act of civil disobedience nine months before Sister Parks. But organizers bypassed Colvin because she was unmarried and pregnant. Instead, Rosa Parks was deemed the proper icon for the boycott.

For many years the work for environmental justice has been inspired by the vision and courage of the leaders of the civil rights movement.

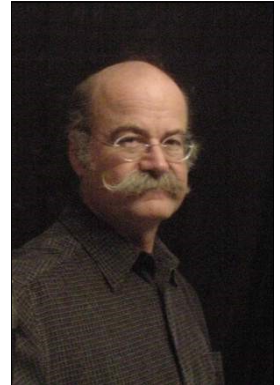
The environmental movement is the product of many like Rosa Parks and many, many more like Claudette Colvin. Some of their names are known; most are not.



Claudette Colvin

Within a social movement the quest for status and personal recognition can become an impediment. How? A charismatic leader can certainly call attention to an issue, but the loss of this person can have an opposite effect. Furthermore, the loss of an irreplaceable spokesperson may reveal a deficit in thinking and planning.

Why not bring in fresh faces to speak at every opportunity? What is needed to expand an organization's leadership?



By Louis A. Zeller

Ultimately, Colvin was one of the plaintiffs in case *Browder v. Gayle* which declared the state law unconstitutional. She said, "Let the people know Rosa Parks was the right person for the boycott. But also let them know that the attorneys took four other women to the Supreme Court to challenge the law that led to the end of segregation."

Attorney Fred Gray said, "Claudette gave all of us moral courage. If she had not done what she did, I am not sure that we would have been able to mount the support for Mrs. Parks." Reflecting on Colvin's role, historian David Garrow said, "the real reality of the movement was often young people and often more than 50 percent women."

The vision of a better future drives the ongoing movement for a more equitable world free of the pollution which has become the trademark of industrial society. One lesson of the Montgomery bus boycott is that leaders cannot be advanced at the expense of the broader movement. The determined, consistent action of the broadest assembly of people working together for a common goal is a power which relies upon no one person.

Ordinary men and women led the nation from the long night after the Civil War into the daylight of civil right. Their success continues to compel us to ask who they were and how they did it.



# Re-use of Coal Ash Re-introduces Contamination

By Louis A. Zeller

(continued from page 1)

"The largest growth in the beneficial re-use of coal ash, a whole new category we have in the American Coal Ash Association, is two to three million tons of coal ash is used to stabilize fracking waters to put them in landfills."<sup>6</sup>

The alternative uses of coal ash are many: gypsum wallboard, Portland cement, concrete blocks, precast concrete, roadbeds, structural fill for construction projects, roofing tile and shingles, sandblasting, paint and adhesives. Also, coal ash is used to alter the chemical or physical properties of soil and spread on ice-covered roads.

The amount of coal ash put to alternative use has increased steadily for decades (see graphic). The Energy Policy Act of 2005 prompted further expansion. The law amended Subtitle F of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, adding, "Increased Use of Recovered Mineral Content in Federally Funded Projects Involving Procurement of Cement or Concrete."<sup>7</sup> In this context, *recovered minerals* includes coal combustion fly ash to make cement.

Wisconsin leads the nation in coal ash reuse to build roads and other construction projects. An investigation of water contamination by Clean Wisconsin found that of 1,000 wells tested nearly half had high levels of the metal molybdenum linked to the use of coal ash. Hundreds of families have had to find new drinking water. Coal ash used in the construction of an elementary school rendered its water supply unusable.<sup>8</sup> Although molybdenum is an essential trace element, ingestion at high levels can have negative impacts on humans including gout-like diseases, joint pain, liver enlargement and other health problems.

Some hold that because we all use electricity we bear a common responsibility for the coal ash and should therefore accept our share of the pollution. This is a strange idea which, if carried to its conclusion, would have us all eating the poisonous byproducts of modern technology like a minimum daily requirement of vitamins and minerals. Plainly, this is unacceptable.

Reuse also erases the liability for contamination, which remains with the generator—the power company—until the ash is transferred off a power plant site. This is a principal financial driver of coal ash policy in the United States. The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League stands for the just and equitable solution to the coal ash crisis. No alternative use which affects public health can be justified, no matter what the economic rationale.

<sup>1</sup>Some states substitute the term *beneficial use* for alternative use. This report will not.

<sup>2</sup>*Managing Coal Combustion Residues in Mines*, National Research Council of National Academies, www.nap.edu

<sup>3</sup>*Id.*

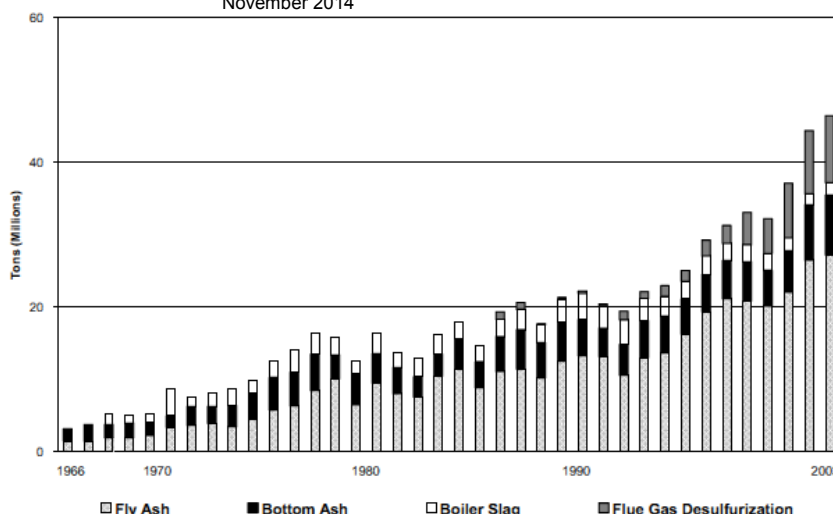
<sup>4</sup>Ryder, R.E., "Incinerator Ash is Inert." ToxCat, 2000. 3(1). Citation 49 accessed 3/23/14 at <http://www.zerowaste.co.nz/assets/Reports/Wastedopportunities.pdf>

<sup>5</sup>Lisa Evans at Earthjustice, <http://earthjustice.org/blog/2014-november>

<sup>6</sup>Christopher Hardin, PE, Senior Project Director, CH2M HILL. *Charlotte Talks*, WFAE-FM 90.7, September 3, 2014

<sup>7</sup>Public Law No 109-58, Sec. 108

<sup>8</sup>"Environmental group links 'beneficial use' of coal ash to southeastern Wisconsin well contamination," Cole Monka, Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism, November 2014



Alternative uses of CCR by year (for purposes other than disposal). SOURCE: American Coal Ash Association, Aurora, CO, written communication, October 2005. Courtesy of the American Coal Ash Association.

# Toxic Coal Ash-Coming Soon to a Backyard Near You?

By Therese Vick

(continued from page 1) Management Act of 2014, means that local approval is bypassed, local ordinances attempting to control coal ash can be pre-empted, and that the liability for Duke's coal ash problems could be passed on to the state and local governments. Of additional concern is an accelerated review schedule, which is legislatively mandated.

But Lee and Chatham Counties are not the only ones at risk for this cheap and dirty plan. There are almost 100 clay mines in North Carolina- of varying sizes- and if the two sites currently under consideration are permitted, many more North Carolina communities are at risk. Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League obtained information from the North Carolina Division of Mines, Energy and Land Resources and mapped the clay pits in the state. Additionally, if the two sites are not permitted, Duke plans to send the ash to the Waste Connections landfill in Anson County.

The counties with clay mines are: Alamance, Anson, Catawba, Chatham, Cumberland, Currituck, Davidson, Gaston, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Henderson, Iredell, Lee, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, and Stokes. Link to BREDL Investigative Report: [http://www.bredl.org/pdf5/150109\\_REPORT\\_CoalAsh-ClayMine-Dumpsites.pdf](http://www.bredl.org/pdf5/150109_REPORT_CoalAsh-ClayMine-Dumpsites.pdf)

## What are some problems?

The fine particles of coal ash can be inhaled deep into the lungs. The coal ash would be transported across the state in trucks and on trains, increasing the probability of spills and air quality effects along transport routes and in the communities targeted for dumping. Problems also include:

Transfer of liability- If the ash is moved to an off-site facility which accepts waste from other places, Duke's liability for this highly toxic waste stream will be diluted.

Environmental Injustice- Most commercial landfills already operating in NC and new proposed landfill sites are in primarily African American neighborhoods. Many of the clay pits are in rural areas- for example, Lee County's poverty rate 17.8%-3.3% higher than North Carolina's poverty rate.

Who will be the recipients of this toxic waste?

Landfills leak:- TESTING OF LANDFILL LINERS REVEALS MAJOR FLAWS  
*"Tests of the new municipal solid waste liner after burial by an Arizona contractor revealed that even with the most careful construction and quality assurance testing at every stage of emplacement, the liners had holes and punctures."* American City and County, July 1991

EVEN THE EPA PREDICTS FAILURE OF THE LANDFILL TECHNOLOGY

*"First, even the best liner and leachate collection systems will ultimately fail due to natural deterioration..."* Federal Register p.33345 August 30, 1988

Groundwater monitoring is inadequate-  
*"...groundwater monitoring wells spaced hundreds of feet apart...will have a low probability of detecting groundwater polluted by landfill leachate..."* G. Fred Lee; Jones-Lee Anne. "Flawed Technology of Subtitle D Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste." G. Fred Lee and Associates. [www.gfredlee.com](http://www.gfredlee.com). Updated February 2013.

## Where is the EPA?

On December 19, 2014, the US Environmental Protection Agency released its long-awaited report on coal ash regulation. The EPA determined that coal ash would not be regulated as hazardous waste. This was a gift to the dirty energy sector in many ways. Some main points are:

The EPA has deemed toxic coal ash "non-hazardous." However, the EPA never claims that coal ash is harmless. This despite the fact that coal ash can contain arsenic, mercury, selenium, dioxins, lead and other toxic components, as well as radioactivity.

Coal ash will be considered "solid waste." The EPA recommendations have no teeth - there will be no federal enforcement of the regulations. It's up to individual states and communities to enforce the law, and states are not required to adopt the rules.

Old, abandoned sites are not subject to the recommendations.

Although EPA recommends using more accurate methods to test the coal ash than the "Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure" (TCLP), they are not required.

## What about Other States?

If Duke Energy is allowed to permit the two sites in North Carolina, it would set a terrible precedent. Duke is the largest utility in the United States, and has a big coal ash problem. Just recently, Duke agreed to close its South Carolina ash pits and transport the coal ash to "dry, lined storage", stating some of the ash would be taken to a landfill in Homer, Georgia, again to someone else's backyard.

## What Else Could Be Done?

Duke Energy must not be allowed ship their coal ash problem to other backyards. Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League has recommended a safer solution, using a process which would isolate the waste from the air, land, groundwater, and surface water. The "saltstone process" is currently being used by the US Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site to store and contain hazardous and radioactive waste. This way Duke would keep the liability for the coal ash, where it belongs, rather than with a company whose major assets are waste dumps. Link to BREDL technical report: [COAL ASH DISPOSITION](#).

## What Can I Do?

1. Use the BREDL map to find out if clay pits are nearby
2. Locate your nearest landfill
3. Find out if they will take coal ash
4. Alert your community
5. Organize against coal ash dumping with help from BREDL!

Also, contact Governor Pat McCrory and tell him not to dump coal ash on North Carolina communities!

Email: [governorsoffice@nc.gov](mailto:governorsoffice@nc.gov) Telephone Number: [919- 814-2000](tel:919-814-2000)

Renee Cail  
CHASE  
Lithonia, GA



**EXTRA! EXTRA! Read all about it!**

**Citizens for a Healthy and Safe Environment  
celebrate a crucial VICTORY!!!!**

On December 9, 2014, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners voted to cancel its July 13, 2010 contract to sell wood chips and yard waste to Green Energy Partners—DeKalb LLC, the company that has been trying to build the \$60 million plant in Lithonia, GA, for four years.

Under the 20 year contract, the county was to sell 40,000 tons of wood chips annually to Green Energy Partners for \$200,000 per year.

CHASE has been involved in an intense four year battle against a deadly and unwanted gasification/ biomass plant initiated by Green Energy Partners- DeKalb LLC. Green Energy Partners has been telling the community that they support green energy but what they support and want to build is deadly gasification/

biomass plants in different places around the country.

CHASE has been unyielding in leading protests against the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners for approving the plant and the Georgia EPD for issuing an air permit. CHASE filed a lawsuit against DeKalb County and another was filed against the EPD for issuance of the air permit.

CHASE President, Renee Cail, stated "CHASE members and supporters have participated in letter writing, meetings with the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, community meetings, door to door canvassing, fund raisers and press conferences. I am very proud of our organization and their determination to remain vigilant during some very stressful times."

CHASE has compiled pertinent data that outlines the dangers of gasification/biomass plants. It has been given to the DeKalb Board of Commissioner on more than one occasion.

Green Energy said they intend to build the plant even with the cancellation of their contract. CHASE is now a chapter of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League. BREDL has been very supportive throughout this battle.

CHASE's president has told members that we cannot relax as we never know what Green Energy is going to do next. Not only must we remain vigilant we must address other critical issues and projects that will negatively affect the community.

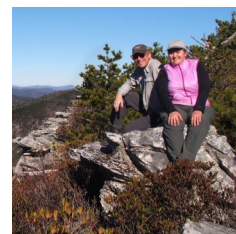


**Chapter Update: Save Linville Gorge Wilderness**

Susan Crotts, SaveLGW, Jonas Ridge, NC

The Save Linville Gorge Wilderness Chapter recently learned that the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission will receive additional sound studies and schedule another public meeting on the proposed shooting range at the base of the Linville Gorge and mouth of Lake James in Burke County, NC in the near future. Lead pollution from a shooting range in this pristine and ecologically sensitive area is of great concern to the local community. Sound pollution in the Linville Gorge Wilderness is also a concern. A core team of local citizens has been mobilized to strategize and engage the larger public for the upcoming weeks and months.

On a more positive note, SaveLGW has been awarded one of twelve national hotspots grants from the organization, Leave no Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. The member-driven Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics teaches people of all ages how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly, and is the most widely accepted outdoor ethics program used on public lands. The organization will send a team of wilderness education and advocacy specialists for a week of educational events to help the public address wilderness environmental issues due to overuse, escaped campfires, trash, invasive species, etc. The week-long series of educational events will be held in late summer or early fall.



## **League Expands Staff Fighting Pipelines in Southwest Virginia In 2015**



**Getra Hanes Selph, Community Organizer  
Roanoke, VA**

My name is Getra Hanes Selph and I am thrilled to join the BREDL team. I grew up in Roanoke County, near the base of Bent Mountain. After graduating from Cave Spring High School, I studied Communications, Public Relations and Advertising at Radford University. In 1999, I graduated from college and moved back to Roanoke where my career began. My professional background includes recruiting, marketing, sales, fundraising, grant writing, event planning and project management. Beginning in 2008, I established my own private consulting firm, Organizational Support Services, LLC.

Last October, I felt compelled to put my business on hold to help organize a volunteer community group called, Preserve Bent Mountain ([www.PreserveRoanoke.org](http://www.PreserveRoanoke.org)). The proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline is a massive 42 inch interstate gas pipeline which threatens my hometown and the entire regional community. Consequently, a grassroots movement is underway to “preserve” Virginia. I am grateful for the support of BREDL. It is truly an honor to work with a group of dedicated BREDL staff members and volunteers. I love working with people and I am looking forward to assisting BREDL chapters in achieving their respective group’s mission.

My husband, Steven Selph, and I live in Roanoke with our adorable Yorkie “dogter” and pet turtle. I enjoy bicycling on the Greenway, vegetarian cooking, painting, crafting and spending time with my extended family.



**Mara Robbins, Community Organizer  
Floyd County, VA**

Hello, fine BREDL folks! Mara Eve Robbins here. I live on the crest of the Blue Ridge Plateau in Floyd County, Virginia and became involved with BREDL in September of 2014 when our community group, *Preserve Floyd: Citizens Preserving Floyd County* was seeking support and shelter in our resistance to the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline.

Over the past five months, BREDL has been instrumental in helping me to discover and develop the proficiency to assist other communities in their struggle with corporate greed, compromised rights and environmental threats. In the process I realized my true vocation. I believe wholeheartedly in the strength of community and my faith is strong even in the face of obstacles that seem all but impossible to overcome. I care deeply about the health and strength of the earth and its fragile inhabitants and I am grateful to be able to devote myself to the task of assisting in the transition from the age of fossil fuels into the renewable revolution that is unfolding.

I offer each and every one of you my loyalty, dedication, commitment and unbounded enthusiasm. Thank you to BREDL for bringing me into the fold and offering me a home in this work that I was born to do. I look forward to serving you and the many communities that will benefit from BREDL’s abundant support and skillful guidance.



# A Tale of Three New Chapters, Organizing Against Pipelines in VA

Mara Robbins, Community Organizer



## Preserve Floyd: Citizens Preserving Floyd County

Preserve Floyd: Citizens Preserving Floyd County, one of BREDL's newest chapters, was born on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in response to the threat of the 42-inch Mountain Valley Pipeline proposed by EQT and Next Era. This monster would have carried fracked gas from the Marcellus shale region in Mobley WV to the Transco compressor station 165 in Pittsylvania County and cut right through the center of Floyd County's fragile and vulnerable ecosystem. The name "Citizens Preserving Floyd County" (CPFC) was resurrected as a way of honoring the ancestry of Floyd County's long history of protecting and preserving their particular piece of the earth.

The original CPFC began in the early 1980s and was a powerful citizen's group dedicated to standing in opposition to APCOs 765kv power lines. The community came together in support of that mission and though they did not succeed in keeping the power lines out of Floyd, they left a legacy of effective advocacy and community solidarity which inspired decades of similar initiatives which were ultimately successful. To this day those power lines are the only existing energy infrastructure not directly related to Floyd County's energy needs.

When the current CPFC group discovered the proposed pipeline during the "open season" period, when EQT and Next Era were still looking for investors, they immediately launched an assertive sign campaign with their website URL, [www.preservefloyd.org](http://www.preservefloyd.org), marked clearly underneath the "No Pipeline" statement. Consequently, many folks began to refer to the citizen's group as "Preserve Floyd." That early on in the process, there were no real maps available, so landowner information was collected by a local citizen experienced with GIS mapping and the Floyd County government constructed a map of the proposed route for citizens to use. When the pipeline was re-routed out of Floyd County in October, other counties in the region chose to utilize "Preserve" as a show of solidarity. It was decided that Preserve Floyd should be added to Citizens Preserving Floyd County. There are now at least seven different "Preserve" groups in the region, including Preserve Franklin, Preserve Bent Mountain, Preserve Roanoke, Preserve Montgomery County VA, Preserve the New River Valley and Preserve Giles." The latest addition is Preserve Monroe County, WV. Two of these groups, Preserve Franklin and Preserve Bent Mountain, are now chapters of BREDL and others are in the process of applying to be chapters.

Preserve Floyd is committed to assisting neighbors in the region in their resistance to the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline. Now that the immediate threat of the pipeline has been quelled where they stand, citizens in Floyd County are exploring proactive ways to prevent further exploitation, such as a community bill of rights with the support of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF). They currently have a draft ordinance in place and are editing and revising it with the guidance of their community, BREDL and Floyd's director of community and economic development. Preserve Floyd is working with as many different community members as possible to investigate and create sustainable job possibilities, innovative ideas for conservation and renewable energy production, and ways to honor their heritage and rural way of life as they lead the way into a sustainable future. They have felt from the beginning that it is important to be solution-oriented and forward thinking, so that they did not merely stand in opposition but also said: "Here's WHY we do not need a pipeline, and here's HOW we can do without it." One of Preserve Floyd's mottos is: "What we stand on is what we stand for," and they've proven that with their actions, their devotion and their example.

Floyd County's water table is especially sensitive. It is on the upper plateau of the Eastern Continental Divide. No water flows into the county. The springs and streams that originate there feed three major watersheds: the Upper Roanoke, the Upper New and the Upper Dan. These watersheds feed 28 counties and four major metropolitan areas. They cover over 10,000 miles of waterways. On one side they flow towards the Atlantic and on the other towards the Gulf of Mexico. Ninety-five percent of Floyd County residents get their water from wells. From an injury to any one, other neighbors can suffer. So Preserve Floyd intends to be vigilant to protect the ground and surface waters today, even as we look ahead. They believe that adequate, clean and protected water in their county is a right, far into the future, that they are not willing to put at risk. And as they care for the water that falls on the Blue Ridge plateau, they are also mindful of its quality as it passes through communities between the Blue Ridge and the Gulf or the Atlantic. They believe that ultimately, water is a shared necessity to life that we care for together across space and across time.

One of the most inspiring events prompted by the pipeline resistance was a collaborative showing of an independent documentary about Floyd County's priceless water resources. "To the Last Drop" was created and filmed in Floyd, featuring seven residents: Fred First, Mark Sowers, Jeff Walker, Mark Grim, Lydeana Martin, Dennis Dove and Jane Cundiff. Long-time Floyd musician Bernie Coveney fashioned the music. Professional videographers from Virginia Tech, Chris Risch and Grazia Apolinales, produced the film. "Preserve Floyd" teamed up with "The Partnership for Floyd," a local non-profit, and co-hosted the event at the Floyd EcoVillage. Floyd artisans and poets were invited to share work and local musicians Erica Joy Rising and the social justice, human rights environmental dance band "The Commons" provided music before and after the showing. There was free popcorn and fresh, clean Floyd County water to drink. Over 300 people showed up to experience Floyd's abundant creativity and though there was ample information on the proposed pipeline and the progress Preserve Floyd was making towards stopping the pipeline, it was also a cel-



celebration of Floyd's diverse and gifted community.

I am the director of Preserve Floyd and Leigh Rainey acts as both secretary and treasurer. Fred First is associate director. Carol Moates, Tree Gigante, Woody Crenshaw, Anne Armistead, Jane Cundiff and others within the core group assist in making quick decisions outside of the larger group meetings. Preserve Floyd has many thriving committees, including Environmental, Media/PR, Fundraising, Regional Outreach, Local Outreach, Event Planning, Research, and Legal. They look forward to welcoming new members to the table in 2015. Preserve Floyd believes that communities are stronger than corporations and pursues that notion in a tangible sense by encouraging local action, local economics and ample participation in local community leadership and governing.

### **Preserve Franklin**

Natasha Laity-Snyder is the proprietor of the creative and quirky "Unplanned Peacock Studio," a hand-dyeing business located in the heart of Franklin County, Virginia. Natasha is the primary artisan and designs and dyes the yarn. She has a degree in costume design, which translates perfectly to the business of making gorgeous supplies for fiber artists. Natasha and her husband, Mark, have a spoiled flock of Icelandic sheep, parrots, cats, dogs, chickens, and a peacock that was indeed, unplanned.

Natasha and Mark's (sometimes) idyllic life was rudely interrupted when they were contacted by Coates Field Service, the survey company hired by the Mountain Valley Pipeline project, in July. They said NO to the preliminary survey and soon after that joined Preserve Floyd's regional outreach committee and attended several landowners' committee meetings in Floyd. Natasha put together a Preserve Franklin website in late August. Preserve Franklin hosted their first large community meeting in early October.

Though it took the rest of Franklin County a little longer to discover the risks associated with the MVP project, Natasha and Mark persisted, and they now have a thriving organization that has gotten the attention of their local government, citizens and volunteers. As soon as a core group was formed, Natasha contacted BREDL about becoming a chapter and Preserve Franklin became the second Preserve group to benefit from the support of the BREDL staff and resources.

The director of Preserve Franklin is Natasha Laity-Snyder and the treasurer is Dave Werner. Jim Lipscomb is associate director, Holly Lipscomb acts as secretary, Carolyn Reilly handles media, Sandy Arthur is directing Landowner Relations, James Atkins is the Ferrum College liaison, Mary Jane Morgan is in charge of the phone tree, and Blair Boone is helping with PR, media and the email list.

### **Preserve Bent Mountain**

On October 14, 2014, EQT and NextEra Energy announced a new route for the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline. On that day, during the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Meeting, it was learned that approximately 55 property owners in Roanoke County received survey notification requests, and additional notifications may soon be issued. Currently, privately owned parcels within the Bent Mountain area of Roanoke County are heavily *(continued on pg. 10)*



# Our water is your water

## **NO PIPELINE**

(continued from page 9) targeted by the MVP. The pipeline corridor is expected to expand and developers have expressed intent to cross the Blue Ridge Parkway and Appalachian Trail.

Getra Hanes Selph was concerned for her parents, Steve and Patti Hanes, who were among the first landowners in Bent Mountain to deny survey access. She applied her excellent organizational skills to the task of coordination and has helped the group to grow and thrive quickly and effectively.

Preserve Bent Mountain formed a citizen advocacy group that works to support landowners and to stop the proposed EQT/Next Era Mountain Valley Pipeline. The group intends to work with the citizens of the Roanoke regional community to advance a shared mission of stopping the pipeline project. Their efforts thus far have been amply rewarded-- they have hosted several successful meetings, elicited the support of local government, and became the second Preserve group to engage as a chapter of BREDL not long after Preserve Floyd did so.

The director of Preserve Bent Mountain is Getra Hanes Selph and the treasurer is Rebecca Dameron. The group organized in October and became a chapter of BREDL in November. Current members are: Roberta Bondurant, Ben Bristol, Jenny Chapman, Mary Beth & Bruce Coffey, Genesis Chapman, Rebecca Dameron, Gayla D'Gaia, Mike Guzo, Steven Hanes, Bob & Roberta Johnson, Eldon Karr, Mike Mayo, Andrea Midkiff, Mert Rives, Ann Rogers, Getra Hanes Selph, Renee & Steve Powers, and Katherine Wilkin.

Jenny Chapman is working with Preserve Bent Mountain and with Preserve Franklin, since she lives in the Bent Mountain area but technically her property is in Franklin County, not Roanoke County. Jenny says it is a bit of a challenge to stay involved in both groups, especially through the busy holiday season, but she is committed to helping in whatever way she can. Her son, Genesis, hand-painted some of the very first "No Pipeline" signs that were distributed in Bent Mountain.



### ***My story - a typical landowner in Franklin County***

Natasha Laity-Snyder, Preserve Franklin County, VA

*There we were, quietly going about our days and attending to our business, delivering lambs, making art, and working on projects. Out of the blue, a representative from the power company calls us, to tell us that they want to survey our land for a natural gas pipeline. Not ones to trust the government, telemarketers, or big business, we immediately got suspicious, and told them "no way" they could trespass on our land and survey. We assumed, wrongly, that this was just the initial "feeling out" of the power company (which was, in fact, what they told us.)*

*Then, we noticed that Floyd County was extremely worried about this pipeline project, which made us realize that not only was this REAL, it was happening SOON.*

*And, then we found out that rather than the "little pipeline" the power company had talked about "no big deal"... it was a 42 inch pipeline that would require massive blasting, ground clearing and easement to install. And - that's just the short term risks. We live in a tiny, pristine valley. This land has been undisturbed for a century - since our house was built. Our house is on the home place of a local family, and it includes their family graveyard.*

*The power company wants to route this pipeline - with all of its associated damage - right down our road. Our home is extremely close to the road - about 12 feet. On the other side of the road is about 100 yards and then an important drainage stream. Where was this pipeline going to go? Were they planning on decimating the entire road? How would this affect our property values? Our homeowner's insurance? The drainage going down the stream? Our perfect well water and natural springs?*

*We don't have the answers to these questions yet, but we knew it was time to act. Alas, I have zero organizing experience, but I can get a website up and at least see if there are other people in Franklin County who are concerned about the blight this pipeline will bring. Maybe together we can do something to stop the corporate takeover of our homes. We have invested our entire future into our land and our farm. I don't want to settle for some quick cash at the expense of the next 50 years of my life. I don't want to see my property values plummet and my farm ruined. I don't want this to happen to my neighbors, either.*

~end~

## Battlelines Shift, the War Goes On

Fred First, Preserve Floyd , VA



After several months of anxious activity in Floyd County over the possible imposition of the Mountain Valley pipeline, I learned from a Roanoke Times reporter that we should soon expect big news for Floyd. My hope was that he meant by this alert that plans for the pipeline had been aborted entirely. Instead the good news was that the pipeline would be routed north of our county. I did not immediately do a happy dance.

My first impulse was caution. Could this even be believed, considering the duplicitous games the big utilities have played with communities all across the nation? And if true, how happy, how relieved could I allow myself to be? Another community was doomed to suffer what--presumably--had now passed over Floyd, by a matter of sheer corporate re-calculation.

As I write on the morning of the day after this news, it begins to sink in that the threat has passed--for now. I am happy to not have the burden of this dragon breathing down our necks. That would have meant years of resistance and legal street-fighting before construction would have even begun, followed by decades of right-of-way issues and the daily suffering sadness of a bucolic landscape marred forever after by an industrial scar.

I am relieved that Floyd Countians do not have to live under the constant threat of conflagrations--the equivalent of small nuclear blasts--when massive gas pipes explode. But others will live in the shadow of that dread now.

Over the past months, we have not wasted effort in the meetings, the miles, the hours, the planning, the research and debate, the amazingly-focused creativity and networking

within the Floyd community and between Floyd and near and distant counties.

Today, we know better who we are as a citizenry. We know what we are capable of if we educate ourselves and stand together. We know what it is that is precious to us because we have allowed ourselves to imagine the loss of those cherished amenities and places. We rise today with a unified voice in defense of our land, our people and our principles of community over corporation.

We hold a renewed purpose in sustaining Floyd County's reputation as doing things in alternative ways by in-sourcing our energy needs. Solarize Floyd! There are alternatives to "cheap, clean and abundant" natural gas that do not commit us to thirty more years of CO2.

In all of the energy and hours poured into this fight for the land that we stand on and stand for, we have developed what I call "eco-empathy."

We now feel like we have walked a mile in the shoes of those unmet neighbors in Nelson and Roanoke who continue the opposition to a pipeline and to all pipelines across the Blue Ridge mountains.

We have a clearer understanding of the relationship between corporations, politicians, national energy policy, and the workings of entities like EQT--one of the "energy partners" breathing down Roanoke's neck this morning.

And here's an interesting coincidence: the same day the route change was announced, news was plastered all over various pipeline-related Facebook pages that EQT faces six criminal charges for water

violations.

These are just the kind of potential failures to guarantee Floyd County's future water quality that contributed in no small part to opposition to the pipeline. The very same water concerns now fall on the other counties in the path of this cultural and environmental insult.

Know this: in this brief initial skirmish southwest Virginia has grown heart, brain and muscle. Our shared vision of the future we want is clearer to us now. We see more widely and deeper into the energy and environmental landscape than we did just months ago.

This threat has made us comprehend the broad and lasting damage that extractive, carbon-based energy tyranny brings to places and to people with names--communities like yours and mine, that bear the risk but don't share in the profit.

The arc of our mountains rises as a geological barrier between natural gas extraction and consumption. Along that long line of green ridges and valleys, the communities of the southern Appalachians stand as a living barrier against an unwise and unhealthy policy that would leave its greatest mark on future generations who would live and prosper here.

Funny how things work out. After months of effort and planning, the evening before the route change was announced, Preserve Floyd had its first meeting as a participating non-profit chapter of BREDL, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League. Their motto against all threats to environmental justice and against the natural health and integrity of each community they represent: "Not here, not there, not anywhere."



## The Beginning of a New Era



Michael G. Noll, President, Wiregrass Activists for Clean Energy, Valdosta, GA

Since 1984 the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League has been helping communities to fight hazardous projects ranging from nuclear power plants, waste dumps, and asphalt plants, to mountain-top removal, incinerators and, more recently, hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") and its tentacles in the form of pipelines. Much of the history of BREDL's communal and environmental activism has been summarized in the special 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition in Spring 2014. Although any summary is ultimately incomplete, it provides a good sense of the many battles fought with often well-known suspects. Some fights led to victory, others were less victorious. Today we may still be engaged in what seems a never-ending cycle of polluting industries trying to move in (or through) and communities reacting to protect themselves, but tomorrow will bring a different paradigm, ushering in an era which is already in sight.

To be sure, we will always have to fight those who put profits above people and the extraction of finite natural resources over the sanctity of Nature, who do not see the fallacy of their own greed, and who cannot admit that their way of life is not much different from that of a drug addict, constantly living in denial and refusing to see the truth. Yes, there are the Koch brothers, global-warming deniers in Congress, and a fossil fuel industry, but all of them are relics of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The future belongs to a different breed of entrepreneurs, politicians, and industries. While we still have to be ready to stave off the legacies of the past, we also have to bring about a new paradigm to propel us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to prepare the grounds for a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable future. So what are the signs that "The Times They Are A Changin'" as Bob Dylan put it in 1964, and what does this mean for BREDL?

Unless you belong to the Flat-Earth-Society, you know that

97% of all scientists agree that global climate change is real and that we have to act. When extreme weather patterns, failing harvests, and rising sea water levels become part of the norm there is no more denying this reality. Thus it comes as no surprise that even some of the more conservative facets of our global society are starting to wake up. Recently it was reported that Pope Francis will soon publish an encyclical on climate change which will be circulated to the world's bishops and priests to relay a simple message to 1.2 billion Catholics: on moral and scientific grounds it is time to take action on climate change.

In response to the irrefutable realities of global climate change, it is also noteworthy that the heirs to the fabled Rockefeller oil fortune announced in September 2014 that they would divest their funds from fossil fuels, thereby joining hundreds of organizations, communities and universities worldwide. What this means is that fossil fuel divestment has entered the financial mainstream, and a growing global movement has already pledged to divest more than \$50 billion from fossil fuels over the next five years, sending one clear message:

investments in fossil fuels have an uncertain future, just as our planet does if we don't act now.

2014 was also the year when the results of a comprehensive survey were made available by one of the world's leading energy political scientist, Dr. Stephen Ansolabehere from Harvard University. According to his research the American public overwhelmingly prefers solar and wind energy to fossil fuels and nuclear energy. And why shouldn't they? The dangers of nuclear power and fossil fuels have been proven time and again. Simply put, people do not develop cancer or asthma due to wind spills or see their groundwater polluted and mountain tops removed because of an abundance of sunshine.

In November 2014 *Mother Jones* published an article which outlines just how far solar has come ("Here Comes the Sun: America's Solar Boom in Charts") listing some eye-opening facts: for the last decade the power generated by new solar installations has grown by about 66% a year, far outpacing any other energy source; rooftop solar panels alone could meet about one fifth of the US electricity demand and the cost for their installation continues to plummet; since 2010 solar industry jobs have increased 50% and their workers now outnumber coal miners nearly 2 to 1; and carbon savings from already existing US solar panels offset the equivalent of 3.5 million cars.

So here we are. An overwhelming majority of the American public gets it, such unique alliances as the Green Tea Coalition in Georgia speak of it, business decisions made by free market capitalists like Warren Buffett give testimony to it, and studies like "Stranded Assets" by Oxford University leave no doubt about it: we are the beginning of a new era. The only holdups are old-energy industry diehards, wavering politicians, and short-sighted utility companies.

Thus in addition to what we have been doing for three decades, BREDL must help untie the remaining knots. In with the new (clean, safe and sustainable) and out with the old (reasons for many of our fights). Let's share with our communities the economic and ecological benefits of investing in clean and renewable sources of energies; let's convince politicians, public service commissioners, and utility companies that it is in the interest of all of us to invest in solar, wind and smart grids; let's throw in for good measure success stories of community solar gardens, net-zero homes, and sustainable cities; and let's turn today's adversaries into tomorrow's allies. ~

## Concerned Citizens of Shell Bluff Launch First Potassium Iodide Workshop

Charles Utley,  
BREDL Community Organizer  
and Environment Justice Coordinator, GA



Potassium Iodide is a must for the residents living within arm's length of Plant Vogtle and Savannah River Site located near Waynesboro, GA. This project will provide the much needed information to these residents who stand at the gates of a potential disaster. We realize that the general public would not consider the two nuclear power reactor at Vogtle or SRS to pose a threat to the general public, especially the residents of Shell Bluff. However, so did those living around **Chernobyl** 1986 and **Fukushima** 2011. We realize that no one wants to think that they are in danger of an environmental disaster waiting to take place in their own back yard; the idea of such a thing is dismissed. However, the danger is still present and precautions should be put in place in case of an emergency. We have launched our first of several workshops to provide information concerning the use of Potassium Iodide to the targeted community.

This is an Environmental Justice concern also because of the disproportional amount of exposure that the residents of Shell Bluff are receiving both from Savannah River Site and Southern Company Plant Vogtle. This makes it extremely important for the residents to receive this firsthand information provided by BREDL.

This project was the first in which residents received the tools and understanding of why, when and how to administer the protective Potassium Iodide to their families. There are other workshops scheduled throughout the target area to continue this needed project.

At BREDL we realize that there is a need for us to always be vigilant in observing the needs of our communities. After all, we are our brothers' keepers. Therefore we must be mindful of those who are *not* receiving the due justice that this community deserves and needs. ~

I want to encourage each of you to watch for injustice that maybe taking place in your community and remember it is your responsibility to help watch for those who do not know what to watch for themselves.

YEAR	HITS	DAILY AVE.
2014	1,753,834	4,805

### BREDL 2014 Highlights Webstats

Mark Barker, Southwest Virginia Vice President



Rank	Date	Hits
1	Mar. 9, 2014	21,391

The day with the most number of hits in 2014 was March 9, when BREDL released its 30th Anniversary Video on YouTube, produced by NC Community Organizer, Cary Rodgers. Visit the BREDLeco channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/BREDLeco>

Top pdf downloads in 2014 at [www.BREDLorg](http://www.BREDLorg)

17,239	<a href="#">Waste Gasification - impacts on the environment and public</a>
12,469	<a href="#">Radioactive Emissions and Health Hazards Surrounding Browns Ferry, AL</a>
7,757	<a href="#">Minority Report on Fugitive Emissions from. Asphalt Plants</a>
6,739	<a href="#">COAL ASH DISPOSITION The Alternative for North Carolina</a>
6,690	<a href="#">Taking Action Against Hot-Dip Galvanizing Pollution</a>
1,257	<a href="#">Hot Topic, Hydrofracking and Radiation Exposure</a>

# **Nuclear Campaign Updates**

## **Accomplishments of the Bellefonte Efficiency and Sustainability Team and Mothers Against Tennessee River Radiation, BEST/MATRR**

GARRY MORGAN  
Scottsboro, AL

### **RADIATION MONITORING**

Our radiation monitoring program continues and has produced some interesting results in East Tennessee. High counts of 125CPM were discovered along Interstate 75 south of Athens, Tennessee. Our multi-channel analyzer revealed the radionuclide to be Uranium 235. Other area radiation counts may be viewed at the BEST/MATRR Google Monitoring Map at [https://mapsengine.google.com/map/viewer?mid=zUriF2xNKAQ4.kc\\_Dlj9TCDyM](https://mapsengine.google.com/map/viewer?mid=zUriF2xNKAQ4.kc_Dlj9TCDyM). This map is in the process of being updated with more data for our upcoming East Tennessee Radiation and Health Report.

The East Tennessee Radiation and Health Report is taking much longer to complete than originally projected. We have missed 2 self imposed deadlines, but with our editor having to work, our progress has been slowed down considerably. This report will cover the area from Knoxville, Tn. to the Tennessee Alabama line in Marion County and will be published soon.

Rhea County west of the Tennessee River, near the Watts Bar Nuclear Facility, has demonstrated elevated health risk and cancer incident rates. Over 2000 counties report cancer incident rates to the National Cancer Institute, Rhea County rates #19 in the nation of reporting counties as to the highest cancer incident rates.

Information on BEST/MATRR's Radiation Monitoring Program: <http://radiationmonitors.blogspot.com/> and video examples: <http://radiationvideos.blogspot.com/>

Health in the Tennessee River Valley has been negatively impacted by radionuclide contaminants, coal ash and the many chemical industrial plants along the Tennessee River.

### **OPEN GOVERNMENT**

Each week BEST/MATRR videos the Jackson County Commission and the Scottsboro City Council meetings and posts the videos on You Tube, Face Book and local blogs. There is no one else who performs this crucial public service for the citizens of the Jackson County Alabama community. Jackson County Alabama is the location of the Bellefonte Zombie Nuclear Plant and money sinkhole. Our video program is important as it builds positive community relations. Many folks have come to me and expressed their appreciation of our video work. Each video gives credit for sponsorship to BREDL/BEST/MATRR. Community relations is a very important aspect of building our credibility in Jackson County.

We also video area NRC meetings and TVA meetings, these are posted on You Tube and on local blogs. Facilitating the concept of open government and bringing to the attention of local, county, state and federal officials our mission and requesting their support of environmental stewardship to insure a healthy environment for citizens is an important part of our mission. Example: <http://arklite.blogspot.com/2014/11/tva-quarterly-board-of-directors.html>

### **Environmental Stewardship**

We are also involved in monitoring cleanup activities and waterways contamination at the U.S. Army's Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. Chemical Weapons spills, chemical containment breaches and DDT contamination are all issues we are involved in monitoring and participating with local concerned citizens who have approached us for help. We have been on 3 calls with the EPA concerning issues at Redstone Arsenal. A project summary of this activity is attached.

### **Participation at Government Meetings**

Members of BEST/MATRR participate and provide input as much as possible to the NRC, TVA, EPA, state and local governmental agencies. We express our concerns and suggest that all entities support a clean and healthy environment via Sustainable-Renewable energy resources coupled with an active energy efficiency program.

### **Social Media and Environmental Stewardship Information Dissemination**

Information is gold is a true statement. BEST/MATRR participates in social media, blogging and email news distribution. Our Face Book site may be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/MATRRorg/276921412378858> ; Make Radiation Visible Campaign and BEST/MATRR's blogs may be reached at <http://www.matrr.org/> ; learn about Scottsboro and Jackson County Alabama news and local government at <http://arklite.blogspot.com>

An example of our information gathering and dissemination program: <http://arklite.blogspot.com/2014/12/yucca-mountain-department-of-energy.html>

### **BEST/MATRR Mission Video: <http://youtu.be/KX8DN7dWb-E>**

As a New Year begins many thanks to our members and supporters.





## How Can BREDL Support My Community? Letter from an ELEE Member

Terica Luxton, Sanford, NC

Hello all, I found this question sent to me via Facebook and caught myself very proud to answer! I could have written so much more about my opinion of being a BREDL chapter. I can honestly say EnvironmentalLEE would not have ever been born without BREDL. We work with Therese Vick and she has been a wonderful support, educator and downright strength when you need it. I have met a lot of their organizers and have always seen positive energy! Please take time to look around at BREDL and see what they have done in 30 years. Originally a group in Lee County called Cumnock Preservation Association, about 10 people, formed to protect their area from industrial growth issues among other things. Then the threat of fracking came to Lee Co. I had started a page called "Lee County NC Say No to Fracking" and started trying to find people to work with against it here. I met Debbie Hall, one of the founders of CPA at a state meeting about fracking. She invited me to their strategy meeting where I met Therese and immediately wanted to get involved. After about a year of finding more people wanting to join us, we realized that we needed a name that would represent what we wanted to do.

We asked our friends and Lee County residents to come up with an environmentally friendly names instead of anti names, hoping we would end fracking and still be working with the community to make our community better. We are a small group, but being part of BREDL makes us feel strong and supported. BREDL helped us every step of the way. With the threat of fracking around the corner BREDL helped us get a grant to be trained and equipped to start NC's first citizen science Bucket Brigade water quality testing. When the threat of a coal ash dump came, we were informed before the Lee County government was! Other BREDL chapters have been fighting and studying coal ash already, so we had resources right there at the BREDL website when we needed it. Because of this we have been working directly with the county since day one. BREDL also works with other organizations and formed resources like FrackfreeNC with a forum that keeps up with everything going on around us; for example, <http://eepurl.com/baJIR1> My advice, go and read this PDF which gives a great example of being a chapter with BREDL. [http://www.bredl.org/pdf3/What\\_does\\_it\\_mean\\_to\\_be\\_a\\_BREDL\\_Chapter.pdf](http://www.bredl.org/pdf3/What_does_it_mean_to_be_a_BREDL_Chapter.pdf) And feel free to check with some of the other chapters listed at the BREDL website.

Peace, Terica



### Community Events Held by ELEE Fall 2014, Sanford, NC

- Bucket Brigade Training/Strategy session to test air quality
- Passed resolution in opposition of Duke's plans to dump coal ash on Lee and Chatham counties
- Research trip to the North Carolina Division of Air Quality
- Spoke out at county commissioners' meeting in opposition to dumping coal ash on Lee County
- Attended Lee County public hearing on coal ash dumping plan
- Protested and handed out information regarding coal ash outside Duke Energy/ Charah "open house"
- Working with Chatham County residents in opposition to coal ash dumping
- Presentation on air testing project to the Environmental Review Advisory Committee

BREDL  
PO BOX 88  
Glendale Springs  
NC 28629



Members of BREDL Chapter EnvironmentalLee have passed a resolution calling on NC Gov. McCrory and Duke Energy Progress to keep coal ash out of their local historic clay mines. Photo taken by ELEE.

Correction: In the *Fall 2014 League Line* edition, a mock drill rig used at press conference at the MEC Fracking Hearing on August 22 in Sanford, NC was mistakenly credited to ELEE. The prop was built and provided by No Fracking in Stokes member, Peggy Wert.

**Contact BREDL to help organize your community and  
plan events to educate others about your issue and  
expand your membership so you can win!**

**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.

**Send your tax-deductible donation to:**  
BREDL, PO Box 88 Glendale Springs, NC 28629  
or donate online at [www.BREDL.org](http://www.BREDL.org).

