



## BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

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# The LEAGUE LINE

WINTER 2022

### Inside Line:

List of articles inside.

**Director's Report: The people of Pamplico, South Carolina must rise up and fight Dominion Energy**

**Unity and support makes a difference for the needs of our communities**

**The 1,4-Dioxane Dilemma**

**Update and next steps on Mountain Valley Pipeline**

**"It took a while, but in the end we won."**

**Ways to raise money for your chapter**

## Virginia air board denies permit for MVP Southgate compressor station

### MVP appeals decision



Regional environmentalists and impacted residents celebrated a victory on December 3, 2021 when the Virginia State Air Pollution and Control Board voted 6 to 1 to deny the air permit for the Lambert Natural Gas Compressor Station (LCS), a part of the Mountain Valley Pipeline Southgate extension project.

Several BREDL staff and members spoke at the 2-day Board meeting held on December 2 and 3 at the Olde Dominion Agriculture Complex Education and Conference Center in Chatham, Virginia. Katie Whitehead and Robert McNutt, both members of our Pittsylvania County Preservation League chapter, spoke before the Board. BREDL member Lib Hutchby from our Chapel Hill Organization for Clean Energy chapter drove from North Carolina to speak. John Wagner, a BREDL Vice-President and member of our EnvironmentalLee chapter, also drove from North Carolina to attend. BREDL staffer, Mark Barker spoke before the Board on Thursday evening and Lou Zeller, Strategic Adviser to BREDL, spoke on Friday.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) mission is to protect and enhance the environment of Virginia in order to promote the health and well-being of its residents. However, during the DEQ

staff presentation to the Board, DEQ often sounded more like MVP spokespersons.

For example, Paul Jenkins, Regional Air Permit Manager for the DEQ Blue Ridge Region Office, presented an obviously biased slide comparing the projected emissions for the LCS alongside two facilities with higher emissions. The chart conveniently did not include nor show emissions from the Transco complex - two existing compressor stations located adjacent to the LCS site. This did not get by the Board. Board Member Hope Cupit asked Jenkins if he could show the LCS emissions combined with Transco. Board Chair Kajal Kapur also asked if a slide containing the Transco complex was available. It was not.

After the DEQ staff presentation, which included their recommendation that the Board approve the air permit, the public was allowed to comment. Dozens spoke during the comment period, which was extended to a second day. Overwhelmingly, most of the commentors asked the Board to deny the air permit.

Robert McNutt, who is on the NAACP Environmental Justice Committee, is a

*(Continued on page 6)*

2022





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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 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 three decades 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, North Carolina. 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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**Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL)**

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Sharon Ponton

#### **Community Organizers**

Renee Cail

Jenn Galler

# The people of Pamplico, South Carolina must rise up and fight Dominion Energy

By Kathy Andrews, Executive Director



If Dominion Energy, a corporation known for its history of pollution and environmental racism, is able to put a pipeline through the Great Pee Dee River and the land surrounding the river, it will not only kill endangered species of fish and birds, it will destroy a way of life for the Pamplico community.

The community has depended on the fish of the Great Pee Dee River for its sustenance for generations. It's a part of their heritage. For me, the memories run deep, as my late grandmother used tobacco strings and big Clorox bottles tied to tree limbs so we could make our way out of the deeply forested woods from her favorite watering hole in the river.

Today, families still fish in the Great Pee Dee River, a way of life that will change if Dominion Energy has its way. Dominion Energy is known to devastate ecosystems, killing fish and

birds while installing huge pipes and compressor stations, creating unbearable noise 24 hours a day nonstop.

According to the Sierra Club, gas pipelines have not only devastated ecosystems, but Dominion Energy has caused thousands of injuries, killing 331 people from 1998-2017. From 2010 to 2016, there were 208 explosions caused by Dominion.

Gas pipelines have also been linked to increased rates of cancer, diabetes, and respiratory diseases, diseases known to affect low income and people of color the hardest.

It will take people rising up against Dominion Energy, a corporation that, according to Campaign Finance Reports, paid \$1.3 million to lawmakers in Virginia to sway approval of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, which grassroots organizations defeated.

The people of Pamplico must fight as the people did in Virginia and North Carolina when Dominion Energy and Duke Energy tried to put a gas pipeline through Union Hill, a community founded by freed slaves after the Civil War.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline was defeated by a successful grassroots campaign. In the end, Dominion and Duke threw in the towel. The people had spoken loud and clear, holding press conferences, protesting, calling legislators, and telling Dominion to take their dangerous pipeline away.

It's important that Pamplico residents know that Dominion will not provide gas to their homes or jobs. It will pollute to profit for its shareholders and change their way of life.

It's up to the people of Pamplico to fight Dominion Energy, seventh in the nation for the most environmental violation penalties. Dominion will not stop unless people stand up for their right to live in a safe and clean environment.

It is also up to regulators and legislators to put the health and welfare of vulnerable communities first, instead of corporations who only want to pollute for their own profit.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has yet to provide Dominion Energy with the first step in their permitting process.





# Unity and support makes a difference for the needs of our communities

*By Charles N. Utley, Associate Director*



There are many things that the Shell Bluff Community stands in need of – transit, Wi-Fi, a community center, homes, and home repairs – to name a few. The Concerned Citizens of Shell Bluff have formulated a working relationship with Shell Bluff Community Organization, local unions, and Georgia Power Neighborhood Renewal. Our goal is to restore homes for those who are in desperate need of assistance, especially those who are unable to help themselves, such as senior citizens, widows, and the less fortunate in the communities we serve.

The members of Concerned Citizens

of Shell Bluff felt that having such a program would inspire others to want to help bring about much-needed change in a geographic area including the community of Shell Bluff and the neighboring communities within a 10-mile radius.

The program had to be stopped due to COVID-19, but now we are beginning to move forward at a slow and cautious pace, following CDC requirements.

One of the homes that we are presently working on is an example of what we are doing to support those who are in need in the Shell Bluff and surrounding communities.

(Please see photos of project, below.)

We remain hopeful that other projects we are working on, including the relocation of the Mary L. Utley Historic Community Center from Hyde Park to the Historic District of Bottsford, will come to fruition.

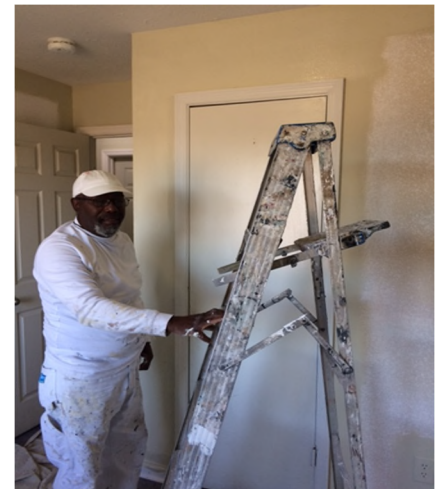
It is our hope that, with the help of volunteers and other organizations working in unity with us, we can build a better community for the future of all the residents of Shell Bluff and nearby neighborhoods.



From this unrepairable home at present location



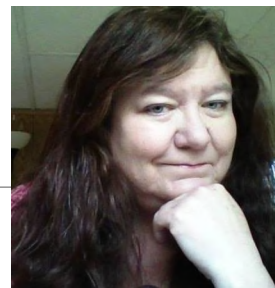
To this future home location—work in progress



New flooring, new bathroom and fresh paint throughout the home.

# The 1,4-Dioxane Dilemma Continues...

By Therese Vick



Review of water monitoring reports submitted to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reveal that “forever chemical” 1,4-Dioxane contamination at Construction/Demolition Landfills (CDLF) and Municipal Solid Waste Landfills (MSWLF) is widespread. The chemical is showing up in groundwater, surface water, and leachate (which is usually discharged into a wastewater treatment plant, and from there to a water body), or all three. DEQ has been requiring these facilities

to monitor for 1,4-Dioxane since 2018. Some states— like Georgia - —are not requiring waste disposal facilities to test for the chemical.

This likely carcinogenic “forever” chemical remains unregulated at the federal level and in most states, including North Carolina. The lack of regulatory limits means that millions of people in North Carolina may be drinking water tainted with 1,4-Dioxane. 1,4-Dioxane is a clear, flammable liquid that has a slight odor. It is not readily biodegradable and is

“miscible” — it dissolves easily in water— and is difficult to remove. Most wastewater treatment plants are not equipped to remove the chemical; it often ends up in water bodies like rivers that are the source of drinking water.

Our research is ongoing and will include a mapping component as well as inquiries to other states in the BREDL service area.



## 1,4-Dioxane

- Flammable liquid and a fire hazard. Potentially explosive if exposed to light or air.
- Found at many facilities because of its widespread use as a stabilizer in certain chlorinated solvents, paint strippers, greases and waxes.
- Short-lived in the atmosphere, may leach readily from soil to groundwater, migrates rapidly in groundwater and is relatively resistant to biodegradation in the subsurface.
- Classified by EPA as “likely to be carcinogenic to humans” by all routes of exposure.
- Short-term exposure may cause eye, nose and throat irritation; long-term exposure may cause kidney and liver damage.
- It is a by-product present in many goods, including paint strippers, dyes, greases, antifreeze and aircraft deicing fluids, and in some consumer products (deodorants, shampoos and cosmetics) (ATSDR 2012; Mohr 2001). 1,4-Dioxane is used as a purifying agent in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals and is a byproduct in the manufacture of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic (Mohr 2001).
- Traces of 1,4-Dioxane may be present in some food supplements, food containing residues from packaging adhesives, or on food crops treated with pesticides that contain 1,4-Dioxane.

Source: U.S. EPA



### Please keep BREDL staff in thought and prayer

Two of our staff members have lost loved ones recently.

Kathy Andrews lost her aunt, Evelyn Andrews Woodbury, who was also her godmother, and Sharon Ponton lost her husband Johnny.

We send our deepest condolences.

*(air board—Continued from page 1)*

landowner who lives just over 3 miles from LCS. McNutt said, “DEQ noted that the impact to sensitive populations is minimal within 2 miles, but if they went out to 3 miles, they would have hit several schools, at least one nursing home and most of the town of Chatham.” He continued, “DEQ has not informed the community of potential harm to anyone’s health. To dismiss our concerns for public health and environmental justice is wrong.”

Regarding the climate crisis McNutt commented, “Cause and effect used to be easier to see. Smokestacks and tailpipes darkened city skies as dead fish floated in burning rivers. It is harder to see the connection between a pipeline and compressor station in Pittsylvania County and the

hurricanes, wildfires, flooding, drought, food shortages and disease in other places. Yet, there is a connection. And, you know there’s a connection.”

Katie Whitehead, a native and resident of Pittsylvania County and also a member of the NAACP Environmental Justice Committee, said the Southgate project “would cross our tree farm that has been in the family since the 1920s. We already have 4 larger Transco pipelines. Southgate would clearcut several more acres, only to duplicate Transco’s gas delivery to Dominion Energy North Carolina. We have never opposed a pipeline or compressor station, but this one has made me mad.”

Whitehead said, “Pittsylvania County officials...surrendered our local

authority to even consider whether we want a third compressor station...This is not environmental justice and it sure as hell is not public engagement.”

Lib Hutchby said, “It’s

essential that we stop the Mountain Valley Pipeline in total. We do not want it in North Carolina as the Southgate. We do not want the compressor station. It’s not that we just don’t want it. It’s not needed. It’s not healthy.”

Mark Barker commented, “It is not suitable for one community to bear the brunt of an additional, third compressor station. Especially when the impacted community is an environmental justice community, especially when there will be no realistic social or economic value provided. To permit this facility does not use fair treatment and does not offer the same degree of protection for this community.”

The proponents of the compressor station have not given up. On December 31 MVP filed an appeal of the air board decision with the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. State Senator Bill Stanley, who represents Chatham, has introduced Senate Bill 81 in the Virginia General Assembly. The bill would remove the power of the Virginia State Air Pollution and Control Board to review facts and circumstances for permits regarding health, safety, social, economic and site suitability issues—essentially rendering the air board without power to influence permitting decisions.



Robert McNutt speaks before the Virginia State Air Pollution and Control Board on Dec. 2, 2021 in Chatham, VA.





# Update and next steps on Mountain Valley Pipeline

*By Ann Rogers*

On December 14, Virginia’s State Water Control Board voted to approve the permit under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP).

Soon following the state board’s vote, Bonnie Law, Chair, Preserve Franklin, contacted BREDL requesting coordination on the development and submission of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding the vote.

Law and BREDL staffer, Ann Rogers, are committed to launching an investigation into the fact that only 5 of the 7 members of the State Water Control Board showed up and voted on December 14 to approve the MVP’s Section 401 permit. Law asserts that the immense impacts of approving the MVP’s Section 401 permit warranted a better turnout on the part of the State Water Control Board. We are committed to working together to investigate how and why this vote proceeded the way it did on December 14.

We seek answers to the following questions:

(a) Why two board members, including board chair Heather Wood and board member Jillian Cohen, were missing for the

- December 14 vote
- (b) Reasons given by the absent members to justify their non-participation in the December 14 vote
- (c) Reasons why the absent members didn’t call in their vote on December 14
- (d) Whether Cindy Berndt, Regulatory Affairs Director, DEQ, knowingly scheduled this meeting date with the understanding that two members had prior conflicts and could not attend on December 14
- (e) Whether the two absent board members abstained from voting, and DEQ reported the vote incorrectly.

The MVP is a 42-inch diameter natural gas pipeline approximately 304 miles in length, running from Wetzel County, WV to Transco Village in Pittsylvania County, VA. The portion of the project located within Virginia consists of approximately 107 miles of pipeline and 51 miles of access roads in Giles, Craig, Montgomery, Roanoke, Franklin, and Pittsylvania Counties. The approved permit authorizes a total of 9.41 acres of impacts to surface waters consisting of 5.9 acres of wetlands and 3.51 acres (17,128 linear feet) of streams. (source: DEQ, VWP Individual Permit Number 21-0416).

The quantity of wetlands that have been or will be impacted by the MVP

in the Bent Mountain community of Roanoke County is staggering. On the next page we offer one of the maps from MVP’s Section 401 permit application (MVP permit application submitted to DEQ in February, 2022, Figure 4-652) illustrating the pipeline’s path through a portion of the wetlands of Bent Mountain. Roanoke County Supervisor, David Radford has formally asked U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to recognize the wetlands of Bent Mountain as having significance in the public interest under federal code 33CFR320.4(b). This recognition is sought in the context of the application submitted by MVP to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

We are hoping that the Army Corps will deny the MVP’s Section 404 permit on the basis of the significance of the Bent Mountain wetlands. Such a denial on the part of the Army Corps would be an act of regulatory accountability – offering much-needed relief from the “regulatory capture” which has governed the permitting processes for the MVP since the project’s inception in 2014. Army Corps’ ruling on the Section 404 permit is anticipated soon, now that both Virginia and West Virginia have approved Section 401 permits. Additionally, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is expected to rule soon on MVP’s request for permission to bore under

182 waterbodies as an alternative to crossing those streams via the open-cut method, which involves diverting each stream's water flow onto adjacent land while a trench is dug through the streambed and the pipeline buried therein.

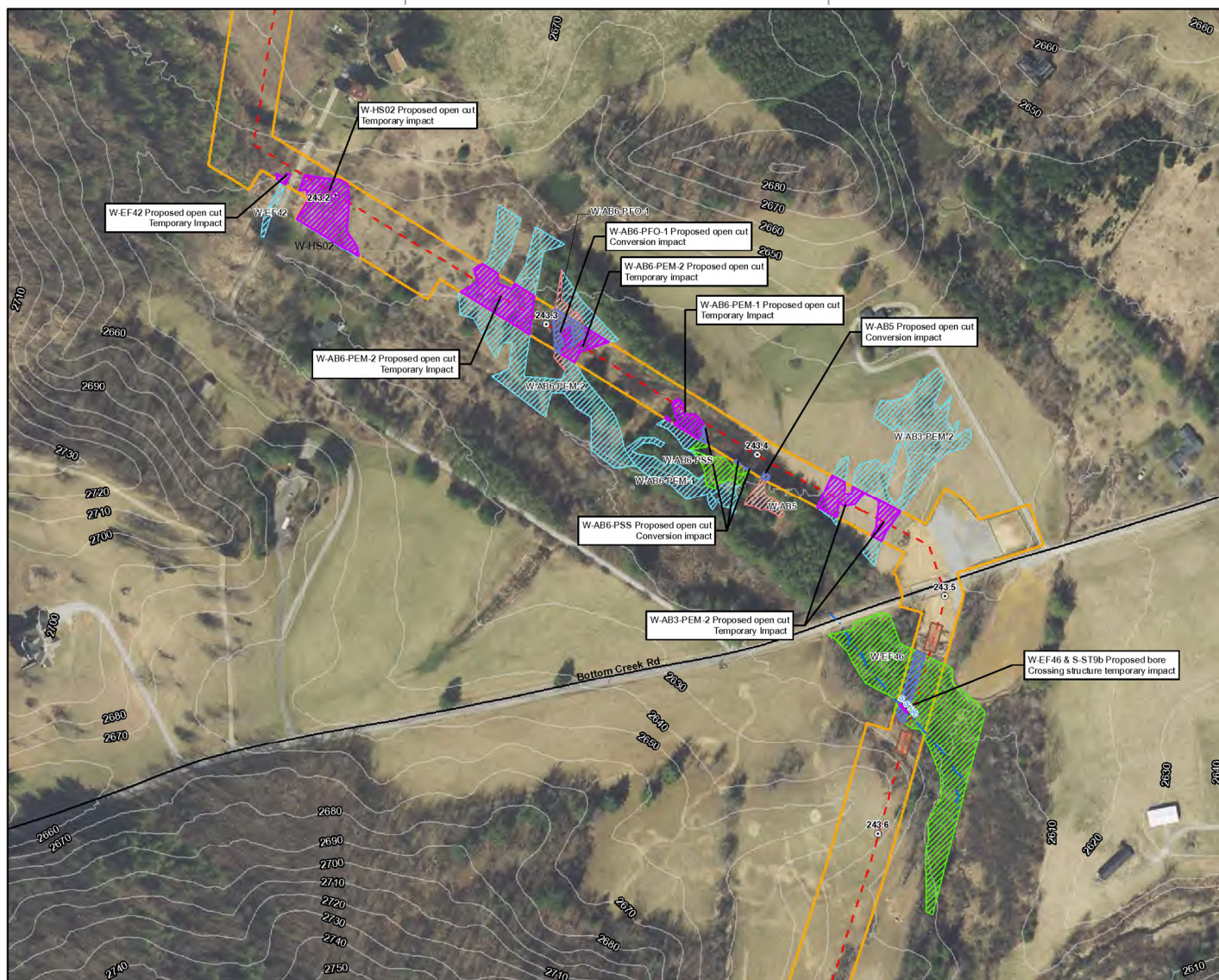
BREDL has two chapters formed in 2015 to stop the MVP from being built through their communities -- Preserve Franklin and Preserve Bent Mountain. A third chapter, Pittsylvania County Preservation League, was formed in 2020 to fight the MVP's Southgate Extension, which is planned for construction

through dozens of pristine aquatic resources in their county.

We close with a recent commentary on the State Water Control Board's December 14 vote by Bert Bondurant, one of the founding members of Preserve Bent Mountain, whose community has, like Franklin County, been subjected to the onslaught of pipeline construction up to the edge of streams for which MVP does not have permits to cross. Said Bert Bondurant:

As we reflect on the losses of neighbor landowners and

communities suffering MVP's destructive effects on land, forests and waters, in the midst of an intensifying climate crisis, Virginia's Water Board has marked for itself an infamous place in history. In granting MVP, a 300 plus repeat offender, a Clean Water Act 401 permit, Virginia regulators have shown its willful indifference to the stark reality of climate catastrophe and squandered an opportunity to do real environmental justice for the people of Southwest Virginia.



Mountain Valley Pipeline, Detail Map, Individual Permit Application, Figure 4-652, February, 2021



MVP's chosen route for its mega-pipeline, blasting and barreling across steep, landslide and earthquake prone mountain slopes, our pristine streams, and protective wetlands, multiplies already high risks of drinking water pollution and fiery explosions, imposing constant threats upon vulnerable and often silent witnesses in its path – including the elderly, single, low- and fixed-income residents, people of color, military veterans, and the disabled. MVP at once renders whole communities either 'pipeline prisoners' or if they are

fortunate enough to be able to leave, 'environmental refugees'. The result today, shameful but not surprising, leads us to brace for MVP continued wrath upon our people and their great places. We will go forward – relentless in pursuit of environmental justice – for the livable future that is the birthright of today's and future generations.

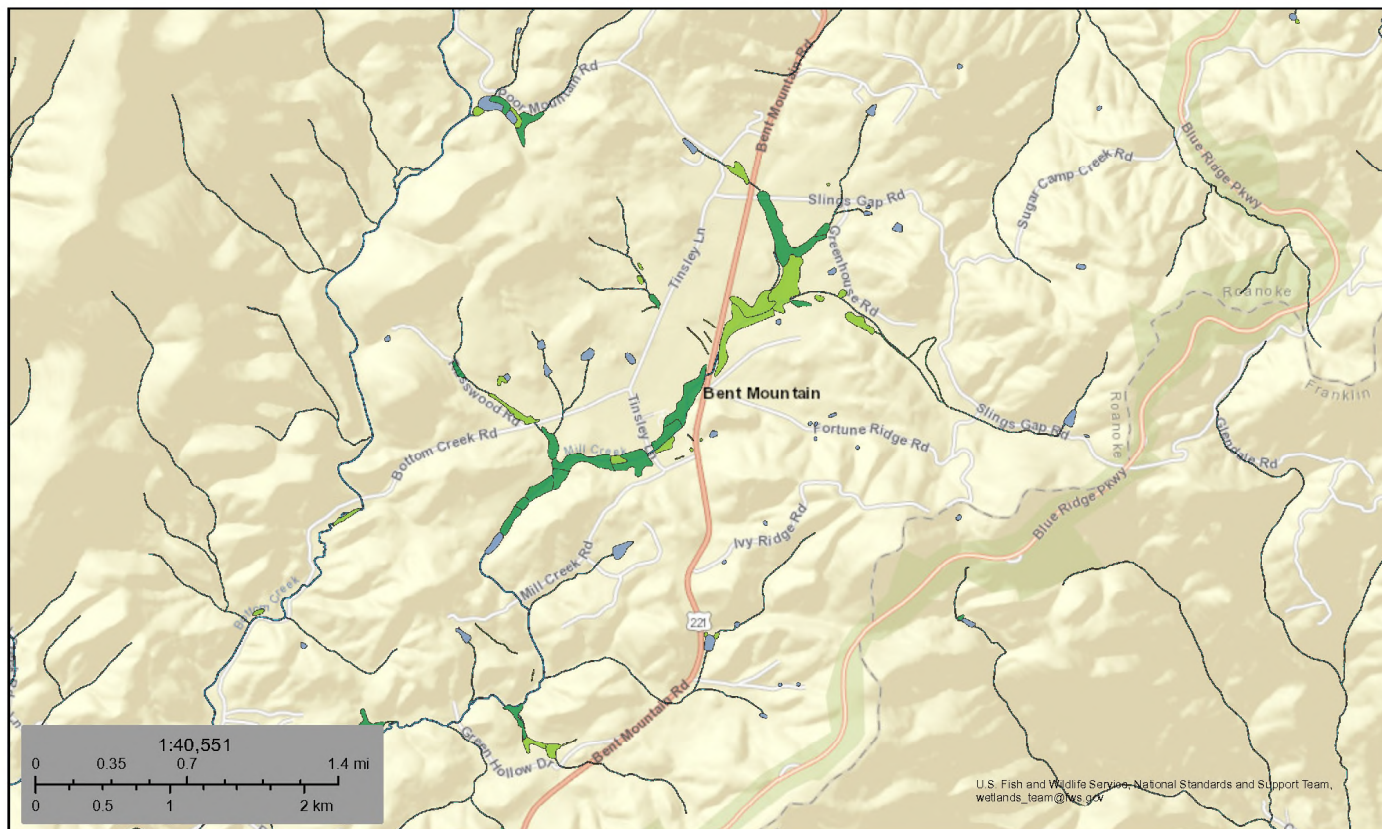
BREDL stands undeterred with Preserve Franklin, Preserve Bent Mountain, and Pittsylvania County Preservation League in our

opposition to the Mountain Valley Pipeline and Southgate Extension.

Appalachian Mountain Advocates and Southern Environmental Law Center, on behalf of several organizations, including Preserve Bent Mountain, Preserve Franklin, and BREDL, have filed a motion for stay pending review regarding the Virginia Water Control Board's approval of the permit. The motion was filed in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals on Jan. 4, 2022.



## Bent Mountain wetlands



November 15, 2021

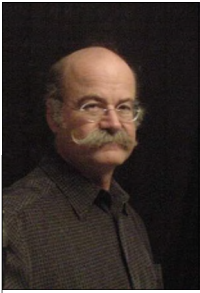
### Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)  
This page was produced by the NWI mapper



# “It took a while, but in the end we won.”

By Lou Zeller, Strategic Advisor

On January 6, 2022, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

staff denied Oklo Power LLC’s license application to build and operate a new type of nuclear power plant, called the “Aurora”, in Idaho.

Oklo Power’s plan was to house a nuclear fission power plant in an attractive A-frame building using nuclear fuel supplied by the Idaho National Laboratory. Unlike conventional plants that use fuel which is 5% Uranium-235, the Aurora micro-reactor would use fuel enriched up to 20% U-235, known as “HALEU” (high-assay, low-enriched uranium). The plant would be rated at 1.5 megawatts of electric power output. Currently operating nuclear power plants range upward of 1,000 megawatts.

In July 2020, BREDL along with 27 other groups filed an emergency petition to suspend the NRC hearing notice for the license application because of glaring omissions in the experimental plant’s design. The NRC dismissed our petition in December 2020. It was a contentious legal fight.

In our petition, attorney Diane Curran stated, “Staff did not follow NRC regulations for docketing Oklo’s combined license application.” But the company sought to shift the blame from their own shortcomings. Curran countered, “Oklo, for its part,

claims to be outraged by the Petitioners’ ‘Unauthorized Filing’, calling it an ‘abusive ploy’ to undermine the ‘normal adjudicatory process’. But the amount of heat generated by Oklo’s invective is inversely proportional to the light shed by its legal and factual arguments.” *Ouch!*

In her final rebuff to the company’s complaint of delay, Attorney Diane Curran wrote, “Petitioners seek to clarify that their purpose is to compel the Staff to do work that remains undone, not to undo work that has been done.” However, the NRC seemed deaf to our argument; that is, until January 6, 2022.

In its denial, NRC’s Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation said there were “significant information gaps in its description of Aurora’s potential accidents”, concluding that, “these gaps prevent further review activities.”

Pleased with NRC’s decision to discard Oklo’s plan, Curran said, “It is important to note that NRC Staff cited many of the deficiencies we cited in our petition.” She added, “It took a while, but in the end we won.”

Following the publication of a pending notice in the Federal Register, Oklo will have 30 days to request a hearing regarding the NRC’s decision. Other interested parties may also ask to participate in

any subsequent hearing. Oklo’s project was supported by \$25 million from private investors plus federal funding for technology development through the US Department of Energy.

We are grateful for Diane Curran’s superlative legal representation, provided *pro bono*, and technical expertise also provided for free by Dr. Edwin Lyman of the Union of Concerned Scientists. Petitioners were: Beyond Nuclear, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Citizens Awareness Network, Citizen Power, Citizens’ Resistance at Fermi Two, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, Don’t Waste Michigan, Ecological Options Network, Food and Water Watch, Friends of the Earth, HEAL Utah, Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition, Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World, National Nuclear Workers for Justice, Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force, Nuclear Energy Information Service, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Nuclear Watch New Mexico, Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Portsmouth/Piketon Residents for Environmental Safety and Security, Promoting Health and Sustainable Energy, Tennessee Environmental Council, Three Mile Island Alert, San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, Snake River Alliance, Tri-Valley Cares, and Uranium Watch.

# Ways to raise money for your chapter



**PayPal**

Accept donations through PayPal ♦ Fee: 2.2% plus 30 cents per transaction ♦ Check with BREDL for application documents



**Facebook**

Funds raised through Facebook must use BREDL as charity ♦ Track donations then BREDL will send you the funds ♦ Donations can take 45—75 days to receive from Facebook ♦ Coordinate with BREDL



**Amazon Smile**

Funds raised through Amazon Smile must use BREDL as charity, we will distribute to chapter ♦ Receive a portion of Amazon sales when buyer chooses BREDL ♦ Donations can take 45 days after quarter ends to receive ♦ Limited to one chapter per quarter. Coordinate with BREDL



**Cyber Grants Front Door**

Apply for community grants (i.e. Walmart community grant) Check with BREDL to add your chapter to the BREDL Cyber Grants verified list ♦ Coordinate with BREDL



**Google for Nonprofits**

Reach more donors with Google Ad Grants ♦ Engage your supporters with video with the YouTube Nonprofit Program ♦ Show your nonprofit's impact with Google Earth and Maps ♦ Google Workspace for Nonprofits ♦ Each chapter can have a separate account ♦ Coordinate with BREDL



**CHEJ Small Grants Program**

Ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,000 ♦ Proposals usually accepted 2 to 3 times a year ♦ May apply multiple times, after previous grant report accepted ♦ Coordinate with BREDL



**BREDL Grassroots Mini-Grant Program**

Ranges from \$500 to \$2,500 to be matched by chapter ♦ May be used with CHEJ Grant. ♦ May apply annually ♦ Check with BREDL for application

Email us at [BREDL@bredl.org](mailto:BREDL@bredl.org) or contact BREDL staff to learn more about these and other fundraising opportunities for your chapter.

**IN OUR BACKYARD**



**PODCAST**

BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

A new season of In Our Backyard Podcast is just around the corner. In the meantime, catch up on previous episodes. Host Jenn Galler always interviews great guests!

*The Real Cost of Nuclear*

*Youth in the Climate Movement*

*Road to Renewables*

*Community Issues*

*Community Activists*

Search for "In Our Backyard Podcast" on your podcast app or click the link at [www.bredl.org](http://www.bredl.org).



**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 nonprofit 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.

**Annual Membership is only \$20**

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 form 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

JMZ Fund Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Janet Marsh Zeller  
Honorary Fund**

The BREDL Board  
of Directors  
established this  
fund to honor the  
work of Janet



Marsh Zeller, who founded the Blue Ridge  
Environmental Defense League and  
served as its executive director for over  
two decades.

**The honorary fund supports BREDL's  
endowment and our long-term ability to  
serve communities.** Individual gifts are  
accepted throughout the year. All  
donations to BREDL are tax deductible.  
Contributions to the fund will benefit the  
organization and honor the woman who  
gave so much to make our world better,  
one community at a time.