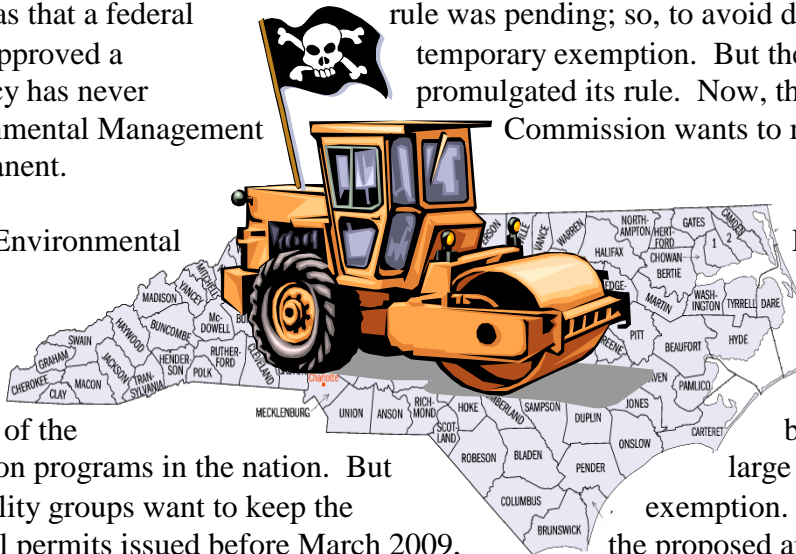


ACTION ALERT

Public hearing on exempting 1,400 industrial pollution sources, including coal-fired power plants, paper mills, asphalt plants and thousands of other smokestacks emitting toxic air pollution.

The NC Environmental Management Commission has proposed a rule which would create a permanent exemption in the state's health-protective toxic air pollution limits. Ten years ago an industry-led campaign steamrolled the NC Environmental Management Commission into approving a combustion source exemption from the NC Air Toxics Program. The exemption included all coal-fired electric power plants and every other type of industrial boiler which burned unadulterated fossil fuel: coal, oil or natural gas. The rationale for the exemption when it was enacted was that a federal rule was pending; so, to avoid duplicate rules, North Carolina approved a temporary exemption. But the Environmental Protection Agency has never promulgated its rule. Now, the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission wants to make the exemption permanent.

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League believes that the exemption is wrong. We oppose it because we believe that North Carolina has one of the best pollution reduction programs in the nation. But industrial and utility groups want to keep the exemption grandfathered all permits issued before March 2009, the NC Air Toxics Rules (15A NCAC 2Q .0700) would make the exemption permanent because it would no longer be dependent on a federal rule; in other words, the exemption remains even if EPA enacts federal standards.



The Defense League exemption is opposed the years ago and now. North Carolina has one of the best toxic air pollution reduction programs in the nation. But industrial and utility groups want to keep the exemption grandfathered all permits issued before March 2009, the NC Air Toxics Rules (15A NCAC 2Q .0700) would make the exemption permanent because it would no longer be dependent on a federal rule; in other words, the exemption remains even if EPA enacts federal standards.

STOP THE TOXIC STEAMROLLER!

for more information, contact:

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

Founded in 1984 and serving Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama
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Exemption Fatally Flawed *State study underestimates statewide toxic air pollution and its devastating impact on human health.*

The NC Division of Air Quality did a study of the proposed exemption using a Human Exposure Model. But the study did not account for important factors such as bioaccumulation and multiple pollution pathways. The NC Science Advisory Board normally accounts for such risk factors and sets state standards to protect public health. The exemption ignores these risks.

The toxics listed at right are caused by the burning of unadulterated fossil fuel: coal, diesel oil and natural gas. Coal-fired power plants, paper mills and asphalt plants emit large amounts of these pollutants. These toxics would escape regulation if the exemption is approved.



Public Hearing
October 28, 2008 7:00 PM
NC Division of Air Quality
Parker-Lincoln Building, Raleigh
at I-440 Exit 11, Capital Blvd.
Directions at http://daq.state.nc.us/motor/ms_grants/direct.shtml

Arsenic

Arsenic is listed as a presumed carcinogenic substance based on the increased prevalence of lung and skin cancer observed in human populations with multiple exposures (primarily through industrial inhalation). *Arsenic Toxicity, E-Medicine, Marcus, August 2006*

Chromium

Chromium III and VI are released into the environment by burning coal. Chromium VI causes respiratory problems, weakened immune systems, kidney and liver damage, alteration of genetic material and lung cancer. *ATSDR Public Health Statement, 2000*

Cadmium

Cadmium and cadmium compounds are known to be human carcinogens. Cadmium exposure and renal dysfunction were associated among the men and women in areas without any known environmental cadmium pollution. *RoC, NTP, DHHS, 2005 and Health effects of cadmium exposure in the general environment, Uno, Kobayashi et al*

Mercury

Mercury is a neurotoxin, affecting the central nervous system. Airborne mercury deposited on land and water bodies becomes methyl mercury and is taken up in fish. Consumption of mercury-tainted fish can cause blurred vision and affect mental ability. Unborn children are three-times as sensitive to methyl mercury, leading to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, deafness, blindness. *Risks of Methylmercury Toxicity, Williams, NCDHHS*

Hydrogen Chloride

Hydrogen chloride forms corrosive hydrochloric acid on contact with body tissue. Inhalation of can cause coughing, choking, inflammation of the nose, throat, and upper respiratory tract. *Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, ATSDR*

Dioxins

A human carcinogen, dioxin persists in the environment and accumulates in the food chain, especially meat, fish and dairy products. Learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder have been linked to dioxin. *Health Risks from TCDD, other dioxins, and dioxin like compounds, USEPA and Environmental Science & Technology Online News*

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