

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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Barnstorming Tour to Block Natural Gas Pipelines *Stop The Pipeline—ROLL BACK POLLUTION*

Today at a press conference in Fayetteville, NC, Cumberland County Caring Voices and the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League launched an eight day, 365 mile tour of communities targeted for natural gas pipelines. The tour features an eight-foot long “Mock Pipeline Compressor Station” which replicates the sound and appearance of the actual compressor stations necessary for pipelines to deliver gas.

Lois Marie Gibbs headlines the tour. She is a homemaker who organized evacuation and cleanup of her community poisoned by toxic waste. Gibbs said that polluting industrial facilities such as pipelines and compressor stations can and must be stopped. She will be the keynote speaker today at a public meeting beginning at 6:30 PM at the East Regional Library, 4809 Clinton Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28312.

Lou Zeller, Executive director of the League, said, “Compressor station noise and pollution are devastating to a community. Our display allows people to experience the unholy racket created by these machines before it is too late.” Zeller added that stopping compressor stations also blocks the pipeline.

Cary Rodgers, Community Organizer for the League, said, “I have met people along the route from Fayetteville to Halifax who oppose the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The concerns are many, but their message is the same: We don’t want your pipeline!”

Luis Nino and others have done an excellent job organizing C3V, including

landowners along the proposed route and community leaders. When the pipeline route was changed, C3V moved to help those newly threatened while maintaining the core organization. Rodgers added, “We are all in this fight together.”

For the first four days, the *Stop The Pipeline—Roll Back Pollution* roadshow will track the routes of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Then it will track the Mountain Valley Pipeline. The daily schedule:

Day/date	County
Tuesday, April 4	Cumberland, NC
Wednesday, April 5	Johnston and Wilson, NC
Thursday, April 6	Nash, NC
Friday, April 7	Halifax, NC
Sunday, April 9	Nelson, VA
Monday, April 10	Buckingham, VA
Monday, April 10	Franklin and Pittsylvania, VA
Tuesday, April 11	Roanoke, VA

Stop the Pipeline—Roll Back Pollution will be in a different community each day with a focus on a local issue and an overall message: Unity and respect for local control.

In the 1970’s, Lois Marie Gibbs organized her community of Love Canal and evacuated hundreds of families who had been contaminated by toxic waste. See her Wikipedia page at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lois_Gibbs

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League was founded in 1984 by people in Virginia and North Carolina concerned about a national nuclear waste dump in the southern Appalachian Mountains. The public education campaign helped to create regional resistance, and the US Department of Energy abandoned the plan in 1987. *Stop The Pipeline—Roll Back Pollution* is part of the League’s clean power campaign launched in 2014: Safeguard America’s Resources—People, Water, Air and Land.

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