

# Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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## PRESS ADVISORY

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### **Nuclear Engineer Reveals Unsafe Reactors at Plant Vogtle Press Conferences and public meetings in Augusta and Atlanta**

On Wednesday and Thursday, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League will hold a series of public forums in Atlanta and Augusta detailing the unsafe conditions at the nuclear power plants now under construction at Plant Vogtle. The meetings will feature Arnold Gundersen, a certified nuclear power plant engineer and a long-time critic of the Westinghouse AP1000 reactors. (See Gundersen bio on page 2.)

The League will also hold two press conferences at which Gundersen will present his latest findings. Both press conferences will begin at 1:00 PM at the following locations:

- **August 16: Paine College, HEAL COMPLEX, Room 101-103, 1255 Druid Parkway, Augusta, GA 30901**
- **August 17: DeKalb County Courthouse, North McDonough St., Decatur, GA 30030**

Gundersen's presentations will be based on his investigations of the plant during license amendment proceedings conducted in 2016 involving flaws in concrete construction and accident preparation to prevent hydrogen explosions.

Lou Zeller, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, said, "The license interventions we brought were designed to correct preventable flaws in construction. Sadly, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board dismissed them without a full hearing of the facts." Gundersen was the League's technical expert for the intervention on hydrogen buildup during accidents. Explosions of the flammable gas were responsible for the destruction of the nuclear power station in Fukushima, Japan.

Rev. Charles Utley, the League's Associate Director, also presented expert testimony during license interventions. He pastors a church located within view of Plant

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Vogtle and will also address his concerns during the two days of meetings in Augusta and Atlanta.

Arnie Gundersen is a licensed atomic reactor operator and former nuclear industry senior vice president, with more than 45-years of nuclear power engineering experience. Currently the chief engineer for Fairewinds Associates, Mr. Gundersen is an expert witness regarding nuclear safety issues and atomic power reactor operations.

Beginning in 2009, Mr. Gundersen uncovered unreviewed safety issues and engineering design flaws in the highly touted AP1000 atomic power reactor, and he has presented those issues on more than six occasions to both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS).

As a Director for Fairewinds Energy Education, a non-profit 501(c)3, Mr. Gundersen regularly speaks at universities, colleges, and numerous organizations around the world. As an expert on the meltdowns in Japan at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power site, Mr. Gundersen has also spoken on CNN, other TV and radio shows, and in print media such as the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. He is an author of a best-selling book in Japan detailing the meltdowns in Fukushima.

Mr. Gundersen and Dr. Marco Kaltofen co-authored a peer-reviewed study that was published in the Journal *Science of the Total Environment* (STOTEN) in August 2017. Mr. Gundersen and Dr. Kaltofen will return to Japan to continue their research and add more data to their groundbreaking study. Details about the study entitled *Radioactively-hot particles detected in dusts and soils from Northern Japan by combination of gamma spectrometry, autoradiography, and SEM/EDS analysis and implications in radiation risk assessment* may be found on our website [www.fairewinds.org](http://www.fairewinds.org) and downloaded at no cost from STOTEN for the next 15-days through that link.

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League was founded in 1984 to prevent a nuclear waste dump in the Southeast. Today the organization has staff, projects and chapters in six states. The Concerned Citizens of Shell Bluff is a BREDL chapter founded by residents living near Plant Vogtle.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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