



THE LEAGUE LINE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE



Source: Scott Lineberger

THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE CALAMITY

BREDL's Ann Rogers chronicles the sequence of events that commenced with the public announcement by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that it had authorized Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (MVP, LLC) to begin pumping gas through the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP). We then look back at BREDL chapter Preserve Franklin's fight against the MVP, followed by BREDL's recommendations regarding next steps on the MVP. (p.4)



For more information on this story and others, visit our website!

<https://www.bredl.org>

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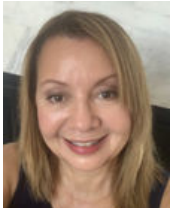
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WE MUST DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUELS

BY: KATHY ANDREWS, BREDL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Weather Channel is predicting the most active hurricane season on record, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts an 85 percent chance of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season. Now, the movement to divest from fossil fuels is needed more than ever before. We must shift from gas, oil, and coal. Activists are organizing campaigns urging all nonprofits, foundations, and the corporate world to put their money in climate friendly companies. It's extremely important to put money in investments that don't cater to industry, money market funds, or corporations that depend on fossil fuels for revenue generation. The good news is that two of the biggest names in philanthropy – the Ford and MacArthur Foundations -- are moving away from fossil fuels. Unfortunately, the banks we cater to the most didn't get the

memo. CNBC reports that the major banks financing fossil fuels include JP Morgan Chase at \$51.3 billion; Citi at \$48.4 billion; and Bank of America at \$42.1 billion.

According to a report from the Climate Works Foundation, funding for climate change totaled \$2 to \$10 billion dollars in 2020, less than 2 percent of overall giving. There is also a lack of transparency among foundations to avoid outside scrutiny and the general perception in the finance world that they can't survive without fossil fuel investments. The Ford Foundation's funds are mainly in private equity rather than directly in companies, according to Ford's Form 990, which must be filed with the IRS yearly. Those funds are not available for review by the public. We can only hope that with the recent climate disasters and more to come, all foundations and even our banking institutions will understand the harsh realities of not divesting from fossil fuels. Activists will continue to campaign and protest because our future depends on it.



SLOW PROGRESS: While some philanthropical organizations have begun to divest, most major banks remain heavily invested in fossil fuels, even as our communities face the devastating impacts of climate change.

BREDL Grassroots Mini Grant Program

The BREDL Grassroots Mini Grant Program (GMGP) is a grant being offered by BREDL to its chapter organizations and other grassroots groups who need cash for the purpose of developing, expanding, enhancing, promoting, or otherwise improving their campaigns to protect the environment in the communities where they live. The GMGP will be offered in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$2,500.

For more details, please contact Kathy Andrews (843-698-9816, kandrews@bredl.org) or Ann Rogers (540-312-3104, amelvin3@verizon.net).

N.C. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INTERFERENCE RESULTS IN THE DELAY OF PFAS GROUNDWATER STANDARDS

BY: THERESE VICK



Thousands of private wells in North Carolina are contaminated with PFAS. PFAS is a type of chemical that can cause health problems including cancer. There are over 15,000 PFAS, and DEQ is trying to regulate eight. Up until now, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) had no regulations or limits regarding PFAS in groundwater. Their proposed limits were presented to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), initiating the slow process of adoption. The North Carolina Chamber of Commerce, with assistance from two members of the EMC, has caused a delay in the implementation of the standards. In an April 22, 2024 letter, Gary Salamido President of the Chamber wrote, "The businesses in our state, including those in manufacturing, have a proven track record of supporting North Carolina's economic vitality

and doing so responsibly. It is important that we do not hastily pass regulations without fully accounting for both the positive benefits and potential negative impacts proposed rules would have on the state and its business community." The letter continues, "Further, in conformance with the Hardison amendment, NC DEQ should align their scope of consideration to be consistent with the six standards proposed by the USEPA on 10 April 2024." DEQ has given several presentations to the EMC on the proposed standards since last fall. More than two million people depend on groundwater for drinking.¹

The Chamber urged the EMC to delay action on the rules. Which is what they did. In response, DEQ Secretary Elizabeth Biser wrote to the EMC and the Chamber of Commerce. This is from the web posting regarding Secretary Biser's letter: "The Secretary's letter explains why DEQ's proposed rulemaking is necessary to reduce PFAS contamination in North Carolina's drinking water sources and how state surface and groundwater standards work in conjunction with the federal drinking water standards issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on April 10. The letter also explains that reducing discharges of PFAS entering our state water supplies is the most cost-effective way to meet the new drinking water standards and that absent DEQ's proposed rulemaking actions, the entire burden of complying with the new drinking water standards will fall to public water systems and North Carolina ratepayers."

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League appreciates DEQ's efforts towards regulating PFAS in groundwater. We hope that DEQ will stand strong and that there will be no further delays.

Contact your local NC Chamber of Commerce and ask if they support the state Chamber in this matter.



Image: Nolan Torian

Read Secretary Biser's letters to the NC Chamber



tinyurl.com/yzvaudkh

Read Secretary Biser's letters to the EMC



<https://tinyurl.com/yjv974kf>

¹ <https://ncnewsline.com/2024/05/07/at-urging-of-nc-chamber-some-environmental-commission-members-want-to-delay-pfas-rules/>

THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE CALAMITY

BY: ANN ROGERS



As narrated by Bonnie Law, Chair, Preserve Franklin, a BREDL chapter serving Franklin County, Virginia, we share the following sequence of events that commenced with the public announcement by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that it had authorized Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (MVP, LLC) to begin pumping gas through the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP). We follow our description of these events with a look back to Franklin County's request to EQT Corporation in 2018, as well as public hearings held by Montgomery and Franklin Counties in 2018 when the counties were rezoning to allow construction of Roanoke Gas Gate Stations connecting with the MVP. And we conclude with BREDL's recommendations regarding next steps on the MVP.

June 11 and 12, 2024

At 5:38 on the evening of June 11, FERC announced its authorization allowing the MVP to go into service, i.e., begin allowing natural gas to be transported through the pipeline. Shortly afterwards that evening, Bonnie Law, Chair, Preserve Franklin, posted an announcement of this monumental event on the Preserve Franklin Facebook page. Landowners whose properties are crossed by the Franklin County portion of the MVP began to post responses on the Facebook site and call her on the phone. One such landowner who lives in very close proximity to the Roanoke Gas Gate Station at Summit View Business Park in Franklin County reported on Facebook the odor of natural gas permeating the area as she pulled into her driveway that evening. The Roanoke Gas Gate Station is on schedule to begin receiving gas from the MVP as soon as the pipeline goes into service. Bonnie and the landowner surmised that the odor of natural gas permeating the area around the Roanoke Gas Gate Station was the result of a leak in the pipeline, and that they needed to take immediate action in response to this exceedingly dangerous threat to public safety.

Since the Roanoke Gas Gate Station is located inside the Summit View Business Park, which is property of Franklin County, Bonnie called and reported the potential gas leak to the Chairman of the Franklin County Board of Supervisors, Ronnie Thompson, at 8:50 p.m. His response was to tell her to call the fire department.

The following morning, the landowner who lives near the Roanoke Gas Gate Station reported to Bonnie that the smell of gas was back again and worse than it had been the previous night. Bonnie tried to report this to another Franklin County Supervisor, but he was in a meeting and unavailable to talk. At around 10 a.m., after hearing nothing back from either Ronnie Thompson or anyone in Franklin County Administration or the Franklin County Department of Public Safety, Bonnie called the Washington D.C. phone line for Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). No one answered the phone. She called an 800 number for a PHMSA information Center and heard a sound that reminded her of a 1940s switchboard ringing repeatedly. A man answered the phone, and Bonnie could scarcely hear him due to a poor phone connection. He told her he couldn't help her and advised that she call the National Response Center, a department within PHMSA that handles emergency calls.

Bonnie called the National Response Center and was able to speak with staff who took her report at 10:03 a.m. He told her he would be sharing this Incident Report with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). He emailed Bonnie a copy of Incident Report # 1401623.

At 10:45 a.m., Bonnie received a call from Allen Jackson, Deputy Fire Marshall for Franklin County. Mr. Jackson told Bonnie that the Franklin County Fire Department had received notification of the Incident Report # 1401623. Mr. Jackson said he would dispatch out to the site of the emergency at the Roanoke Gas Gate Station.



Image: Ann Rogers



Image: Scott Lineberger

At 12:41 p.m., Bonnie received a call from a PHMSA public safety representative, who told her that MVP representatives had been dispatched to the emergency site. He said he was enroute to the site to conduct an inspection, which they suspected was a problem with the Roanoke Gas interconnect. He explained that a very strong chemical odorant can be released that smells just like natural gas and results in false reports of natural gas leaks. He said he could not confirm this until inspecting the site.

At 2 p.m., Bonnie met with the PHMSA public safety representative after his inspection of the Gate Station site. He confirmed that Roanoke Gas representatives were on site at the Gate Station during his visit. The Deputy Fire Marshall was also on the scene, as well as the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. The PHMSA representative told Bonnie that the release of odorant was a result of odor injection equipment failure at Roanoke Gas Gate Station. Odorant had been injected into their odorization system, which leaked and was being repaired when he arrived at the site.

During her meeting with the PHMSA public safety representative, Bonnie informed him that this appeared to be a classic example of why odorant was advisable in the MVP gas line when it comes online, so that if there is a leakage, we will smell it and notify someone. The PHMSA representative informed Bonnie that, based on current federal regulation, PHMSA could not mandate that MVP, LLC put odorant into their pipeline. He also stated that MVP, LLC could have voluntarily put odorant into the line. Bonnie confirmed her understanding of MVP, LLC's voluntary decision not to put odorant into the pipeline, adding that the day's debacle offered clear evidence of why we need odorant in the MVP.

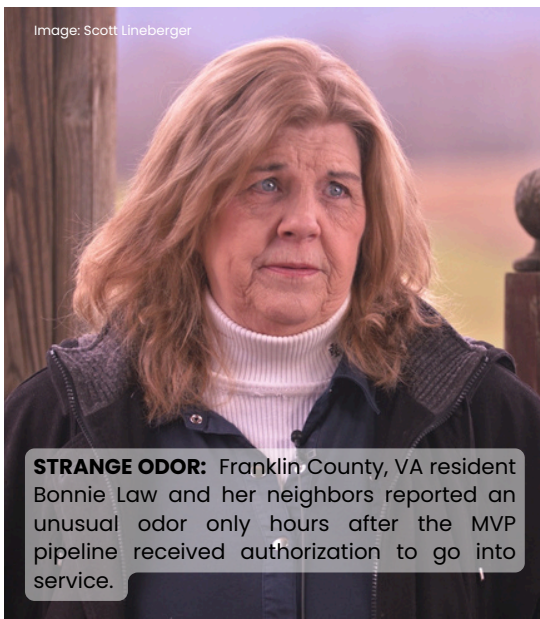


Image: Scott Lineberger

STRANGE ODOR: Franklin County, VA resident Bonnie Law and her neighbors reported an unusual odor only hours after the MVP pipeline received authorization to go into service.

Bonnie asked him, "How are we going to smell MVP gas leaking? How would we know?"

He replied, "You're not going to smell it."

Bonnie replied, "If Roanoke Gas or MVP had told the nearby landowner they would be testing and there could be odor, then the landowner would have been aware and not been terrified of an explosion. How do we encourage MVP to put odorant in the line going forward?"

He said he was aware that numerous comments had been posted on the FERC docket about the need to add odorant to the MVP gas, adding, "It will be up to you to work on that."

According to another observer, the smell had permeated through Summit View Business Park by this time on June 12.

At 2:30 p.m., Deputy Fire Marshall, Allen Jackson called Bonnie to tell her that he had completed his inspection at the Roanoke Gas Gate Station, a repair was underway, and that the public is not in danger. He said any time people living near the MVP suspect a problem, call immediately.



THE SCARS: Pipeline construction construction results in large areas of physical disturbance to the landscape known as “scarring”. The images accompanying this article show some of the scarring that has occurred near Bent Mountain and the Roanoke River due to the construction of the MVP pipeline.

Franklin County’s request to EQT Corporation in 2018

On July 10, 2018, Franklin County Supervisor, Mike Carter, made a motion to the Franklin County Board of Supervisors that the county write to EQT Corporation requesting that odorant be added to the MVP. In response to Mr. Carter’s motion, Administrator W. Brent Robertson wrote to EQT Corporation requesting that odorant be added to the gas in the MVP mainline for purposes of public safety. Mr. Robertson’s letter stated:

“On behalf of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Franklin, Virginia and its citizens, the purpose of my letter is to request that EQT add a natural odorant to its Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) natural gas transmission pipeline in order that leaking gas may be detected by smell.

The request to add an odorant to the MVP natural gas transmission line is for safety reasons. The County believes the odorant could facilitate an early warning to both property owners and other individuals who may be in the vicinity of the pipeline so that they can quickly contact EQT and emergency response agencies so that first responders can do what is necessary to make everyone in the area of the leak safe. Otherwise, a leak of gas that is odorless and colorless could go undetected without EQT adding the odorant.

Therefore, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Franklin does hereby request that EQT add a natural odorant in order to provide increased safety for the citizens of Franklin County, Virginia and those citizens in the other Counties who are impacted by the presence of the natural gas transmission pipeline.”

On July 27, EQT’s Manager of Government Affairs, Maurice Royster, issued a letter in response, denying the County’s request to add odorant to the MVP. Said the letter,

“The odorization of gas is regulated by the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49 Subtitle B Chapter 1 Subchapter D Part 192 Subpart L, section 192.625 (Odorization of gas). As a natural gas transmission line, the vast majority of MVP’s route and related compressor station facilities are located in areas designated as Class 1 or Class 2; therefore, existing federal regulations do not require odorization be used for any segments of the MVP natural gas transmission project.”



Image: Scott Lineberger

Public hearings in 2018

In 2018, BREDL staff attended and made comments at public hearings for rezoning to allow the development of gate stations connecting to the MVP in Montgomery and Franklin Counties. In the Montgomery County hearing on September 19, 2018, Jim Shockley, VP Operations, Roanoke Gas, stated that Roanoke Gas routinely stores and uses 80-90 gallons of Mercaptan on site at a gate station. Mercaptan is the chemical that is used as the odorant in natural gas pipelines. BREDL staff researched Mercaptan and shared our findings at the public hearing held on October 9, 2018 for a special use permit for the Roanoke Gas Gate Station at Summit View Business Park in Franklin County. Our comments to Franklin County Planning Commission highlighted the toxicity of Mercaptan. The following is a transcript of comments made by Ann Rogers:

"An important issue for you to consider this evening is that of the odorant called Mercaptan, which will be added to the natural gas at the proposed gate station. Jim Shockley, VP Operations, Roanoke Gas, stated last month that Roanoke Gas routinely stores and uses 80- 90 gallons of Mercaptan on site at a gate station. I have distributed to each of you a Material Safety Data Sheet, or MSDS, for Mercaptan. The MSDS says that Mercaptan is:

- *a toxic material causing immediate and serious toxic effects upon exposure*
- *extremely flammable*
- *dangerous for the environment*
- *very toxic to aquatic organisms, causing long*
- *term adverse effects in the aquatic environment.*

The MSDS says that Mercaptan is stored in a pressurized container that should not be exposed to direct sunlight or allowed to reach 122 degrees F. And here's a huge concern to me as an admirer of Franklin County's hundreds of miles of pristine streams and rivers. The MSDS says: -do not allow Mercaptan to reach ground water, water courses or sewage systems, even in small quantities -Mercaptan is a danger to drinking water even when extremely small quantities leak into the ground - Mercaptan is poisonous to fish and plankton in water bodies, and very toxic for aquatic organisms.

So my question to this Commission is – looking at the Franklin County Code – do you feel confident that you have procedures, equipment, response protocols, and trained staff in place to deal with a potential leak or explosion of Mercaptan stored at the proposed gate station at Summit View Business Park? If not, please postpone voting on this issue until you are prepared to deal with Mercaptan-related emergencies, including accidental release into groundwater or streams, and you are aware of the real cost to Franklin County of bringing a gate station to Summit View."

The Material Safety Data Sheet for Mercaptan, as issued by Linde Gas in January, 1995, states: "Symptoms of inhalation cause acute intoxication with symptoms of headache, vomiting, tremors, muscular weakness, and eventual coma, respiratory paralysis and death. The vapor and liquid will irritate the skin, eyes, and other mucosal tissue. The extremely unpleasant odor of methyl mercaptan provides an adequate warning at levels far below toxic concentrations. Continuous exposure may cause olfactory fatigue."

Conclusion

Preserve Franklin is working to obtain technical documentation of what transpired at the Roanoke Gas Gate Station in Franklin County on June 11 and 12, 2024 to allow an understanding of whether the problem was caused by operator failure, equipment failure, or both. Bonnie Law is following up with the landowner who reported the odor at the gate station at Summit View Park to make sure she is not experiencing symptoms of Mercaptan poisoning. At its meeting on June 20, 2024, the Franklin County Board of Supervisors agreed to invite Roanoke Gas to make a presentation on the procedures and protocols currently in place for dealing with emergency situations such as what transpired June 11 and 12. And, BREDL staff will be following up with Roanoke Gas to enquire whether Mercaptan leaked into the soil during the June 11-12 equipment failure and, if so, what remediation is planned or underway.

BREDL offers the following actions for consideration by residents and administrators of all counties crossed by the MVP:

1. PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY - Collectively demand that EQT Corporation add odorant to the MVP.

2. PROTECT SAFETY OF INDIVIDUALS EMPLOYED AT GATE STATIONS AND RESIDENTS LIVING NEAR GATE STATIONS - Organize a public forum involving residents, county governments, EQT Corporation, PHMSA, and FERC to publicly consider the health risks of Mercaptan and the procedures, equipment, response protocols, and staff training required to deal with a Mercaptan leak or explosion

3. PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT - Organize a public forum involving residents, county governments, EPA, and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to publicly consider the environmental risks of Mercaptan and the procedures, equipment, response protocols, and staff training required to deal with a Mercaptan leak into rivers, streams, wetlands, or groundwater.



Image: Ann Rogers



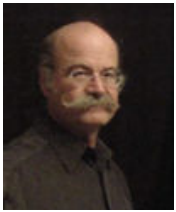
Scan the QR to view video of this story on BREDL's on ECO Justice YouTube series.

www.youtube.com/@BREDLeco



FOOL'S GOLD

By: Lou Zeller, Strategic Advisor



"Mistaking this fool's gold of a climate solution will do little to keep our planet the sublime blue orb we experience around us today."¹

This statement—a clear, accurate and thoughtful assessment of the ongoing climate crisis—appears at first to have been written by an inveterate tree-hugger. One tired of false promises. It could have been written by any number of climate warriors unsatisfied with further tilting at windmills. It could have been me. But it wasn't. No, its author is Gregory Jaczko, former chair of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the federal agency which governs the nation's nuclear power plant licensing, construction and operation. The fools' gold he was talking about is the false notion of reversing climate change with commercial electric-generating nuclear power plants.

In his editorial, Jaczko pointed to the early 21st Century promotion of a so-called Nuclear Renaissance, in which standardized designs and new regulations were to usher in a new age of power too cheap to meter. But the promises were overblown and the scores of new nuclear power plants-to-be either met with overwhelming opposition (BREDL chapters organized to defeat several), excessive financial liability (when utilities passed along ballooning construction costs), or loss of control (prompted by earthquakes in Fukushima, Japan and Mineral, Virginia).

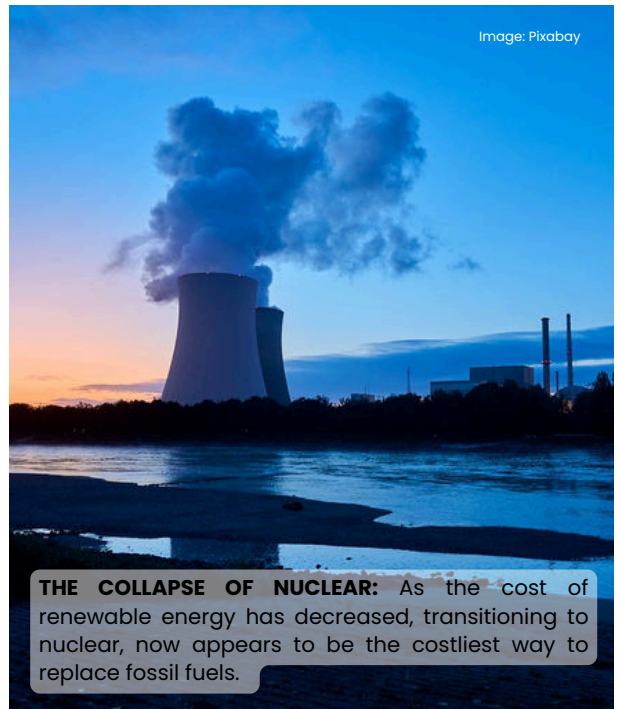
Now comes Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, who in June this year said nuclear power is the way to fully transform our present carbon-dependent electric system to one that is carbon free. Gates said, "On-demand around-the-clock power, the kind that an advanced nuclear reactor can provide, is the only way to decarbonize the world's electric grids." Clearly, Gates has found allies in the nuclear industry who pedal concepts like base-load electricity, intermittent power and we-need-power-when-the-sun-don't-shine-and-the-wind-don't-blow. Their solution is to demolish aging coal-fired power plants (alright so far) and construct small modular reactors (SMR) or traveling wave reactors (TWR). The Microsoft co-founder has already sunk \$1 billion into this "new type of American nuclear energy."

TerraPower, Bill Gates' private company, is planning to develop a nuclear fast reactor which has a core of enriched uranium fuel inside a large mass of depleted uranium. This arrangement creates new fissile material in the surrounding mass, including Plutonium-239, the fissile element used in nuclear weapons. This nuclear reaction continues as more fuel is created. Eventually, the reaction moves from the core of the reactor to the outside; hence the name "travelling wave reactor." In 2020 the US Department of Energy gave a matching grant of between \$400 million to \$4 billion for a nuclear power demonstration project using liquid sodium coolant.

In addition to safety concerns, the creation of Plutonium-239 prompts highly disturbing consequences leading to nuclear weapon proliferation. In the 1970s the Carter Administration abandoned the Clinch River breeder reactor program based on similar international concerns.

Bill Gates is ignoring the lesson from the first nuclear renaissance, when faith in nuclear was dashed a quarter century and billions of tons of carbon dioxide ago. According to Paul Hawkin and Amory and Hunter Lovins—authors of *Natural Capitalism*—the lesson is:

"The collapse of nuclear power—once the hope for displacing coal-burning—might at first appear a setback for climate protection. Actually, it's good news. Since nuclear power is the costliest way to replace fossil fuels, every dollar spent on it displaces less climatic risk than would have been avoided if that same dollar were spent instead on techniques to use energy more efficiently, because those methods cost far less than nuclear power."²



¹ "Nuclear Power and Climate Change," Gregory Jaczko, Huffington Post, 12/14/2016, https://www.huffpost.com/entry/nuclear-power-and-climate_b_8806792

² *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution*, Paul Hawkin, Amory and L. Hunter Lovins, 1999, pp. 249

So, even if society could afford to build enough nukes to reverse the tide of climate change, it could achieve the same results at far less cost and far more safely by using other available techniques like solar, wind, efficiency etc.

Chairman Jaczko is not the only ex-nuclear power regulator to have reached the conclusion that atomic power is in fact too expensive to matter. Peter Bradford, an earlier commissioner on the US NRC and public utility chairman in New York and Vermont, said, "Those who assert that the problem of climate change is so urgent that we have to do everything ... overlook the fact that we can never afford to do everything. The urgency of world hunger doesn't compel us to fight it with caviar, no matter how nourishing fish eggs might be. Spending large sums on elegant solutions (especially those with side effects) that provide little relief will diminish what we can spend on more promising approaches."³

When backed into a corner, purveyors of dirty power plants—biomass, natural gas, clean coal, nukes etc.—will often respond, "Yes, but we need all the above." To which we say, no, we most certainly do not need all the above so long as it includes polluting, expensive and counterproductive energy sources. And we certainly do not need to split the atom to boil water.

³ "Honey, I Shrank the Renaissance: Nuclear Revival, Climate Change, and Reality," Peter Bradford, former Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and former public utility chair for the states of New York and Vermont, Oct. 11, 2010

BREDL AIR MONITORING PROGRAM UPDATE

BY: CARE-4-AIR TEAM

Hello, BREDL CARE-4-Air participating chapters and friends! We wanted to give you an update on our BREDL air monitoring trailer project. We will be reaching out to chapters, separately, in the upcoming weeks. **If you have any questions, please reach out to us.**

EPA has granted our project extension. We asked for an extension since this EPA review process has dragged on. Instead of concluding on June 30, 2026, our project will now conclude on April 30, 2027. In the past couple of weeks, we also confirmed with EPA that we will remain at each site for 4 to 5 months, as opposed to 3 months. The number of sites that we monitor will be reduced from 12 to 7.

Our technical contractor, Wilbur Technical Services (WTS), is still building the trailer. They expect that to be completed some time in July. Attached are a few recent photos of the trailer.



PREPPING THE BEAST: Electrician work completed. Next up: our custom analyzer rack, mounting the instruments inside that rack, and making up the sample inlet on the roof, adding met station, and security cameras.

Meanwhile, we are working on our revision to our Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). We have met with both EPA and WTS in an effort to complete the QAPP. Within the next couple of weeks or so, we anticipate re-submitting this technical document to EPA for their final approval.

We cannot collect any data until our QAPP has been approved by EPA.

In addition, we are working with EPA to meet their collocation requirement. EPA recommends that we collocate our trailer alongside an agency monitoring site with instruments measuring the same pollutants. This would occur for a week prior to the start of our project and a week after the conclusion of our project. If possible, we will also try to schedule a collocation week in the middle of our 3-year project. EPA is searching for a collocation site for us.

At this time, we are unsure if the training to be provided by Wilbur Technical Services will be offered at a host site or at an agency collocation site. Regardless, BREDL will offer a brief training to the members of the sponsoring chapter at each site. This training will be coordinated with the sponsoring chapter at the start of each deployment.

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.

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.

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**Does your chapter have a story to share in the League Line?
Submit your article to bredl@bredl.org!**

View archived newsletters at www.theleagueonline.org

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

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.

BREDL
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PO Box 2168
Boone, NC 28607

Annual Membership is only \$20

Thank you for supporting Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
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**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.