

BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEAGUE LAUNCHES ANTI-FRACKING TOUR

No Toxic Trespass—No Fracking Way!

Today at a press conference in Winston-Salem, the statewide Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League launched the *No Toxic Trespass—No Fracking Way!* campaign to prevent hydrofracking in North Carolina. This week the group will take its message directly to many of the communities most at risk from hydrofracking, the invasive process for the extraction of natural gas.

Featured at the conference was Lois Marie Gibbs, who organized her community in Love Canal, New York, and triumphed in establishing the Superfund for toxic chemical cleanups. Speaking about the impacts of hydrofracking, Gibbs said, "What we witnessed were wrecked communities which mirrored the broken rock out-of-sight and underground." She blamed the boom-town phenomenon created by natural gas and other fossil fuel industries for the social ills and added, "Rising levels of crime and disease come to town with the drilling rigs." Gibbs cited an independent study of rural communities before and after hydrofracking revealed a 62% rise in gonorrhea and chlamydia, two sexually transmitted diseases. She concluded, "We don't need it. We don't want it!"

Therese Vick, the League's community organizer most familiar with North Carolina's ongoing decision making on fracking, spoke about the timing of this campaign. She said, "We

must act now to alert those communities most at risk, a region which spans the state from the Virginia line to South Carolina. Our goal is to simply block fracking in North Carolina. Vick announced that the four-day *No Toxic Trespass—No Fracking Way!* tour will visit Germanton, Sanford, Raleigh, Pittsboro and Wadesboro, covering the Triassic Basin, the prime target for the fracking industry. The tour includes conferences, community meetings, and public forums.

Lois Gibbs founded the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, which is opposing fracking in many states and has a vast experience with the public health and community impacts of the invasive natural gas extraction process.

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League was founded in 1984 and today has chapters and projects in six states.

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Tour Schedule *No Toxic Trespass—No Fracking Way!*

November 18

- 7:00 PM: Community meeting at 7:00 pm, Germanton United Methodist Church, 3615 NC 8 & 65 Hwy, Germanton NC, 27019.

November 19

- 11:00 AM: Press conference, Lee County Courthouse, 1408 S Horner Blvd, Sanford, NC, 27330.
- 7:00 PM: Candlelight vigil and community meeting, Cumnock Union United Methodist Church, 851 Cumnock Rd, Sanford, NC ,27330.

November 20

- 11:00 AM: Press Briefing, Raleigh, Pullen Community Center, 408 Ashe Ave. Raleigh.
- 12:30 PM: Informational Meeting with NC State U students, Harrelson Satellite Student Center, Room 210, see campus map at http://www.ncsu.edu/campus_map/north.htm
- 7:00 PM: Public Forum at Central Carolina Community College Multi-Purpose Room, 764 West St, Pittsboro, NC, 27312.

November 21

- 1:00 PM: Press conference, Hampton Allen Library, 120 S. Greene St. Wadesboro, 28170. There will be a luncheon beginning at 12 Noon at the library and media representatives are welcome to come early and enjoy the hospitality provided by Pee Dee WALL.