

# Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

[www.BREDL.org](http://www.BREDL.org) PO Box 88 Glendale Springs, North Carolina 28629 [BREDL@skybest.com](mailto:BREDL@skybest.com) (336) 982-2691

## **For Immediate Release**

**December 2, 2014**

### **Contact:**

**Louis Zeller 336-982-2691**

## **Group Calls on EPA to Remove Nukes, Natural Gas and Biomass from Clean Power Plan**

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League has sent a request to the head of the US Environmental Protection Agency calling for the elimination of polluting forms of electric generation from its proposed Clean Power Plan. In a letter filed on Monday, the League detailed its opposition to the inclusion of natural gas, nuclear and biomass in the EPA's building blocks for carbon reductions.

The League's Executive Director explained that the group fully supports the EPA's targets designed to curb global warming, but that the reliance on dangerous and polluting forms of power is a mistake. Zeller said, "We recommend that the EPA abandon its optimistic assumptions regarding these three methods of generating electricity. This would put the nation on a more secure foundation and avoid expensive and counterproductive blind alleys."

The League's analysis found that:

- 1) Nuclear power is too expensive and too risky to play a role in greenhouse gas reductions;
- 2) Biomass power plants emit as much or more greenhouse gas as coal-fired units, erasing any benefit;
- 3) Natural gas is a limited resource and not renewable, and the destructive practice of fracking renders it unsuitable.

The League recommended that the EPA abandon its assumptions regarding these three methods of generating electricity. Zeller said, "Without this excess baggage, the Clean Power Plan's carbon reduction goals are still achievable, at less cost and without damage to the environment and public health."

Zeller added, "The Best System of Emissions Reductions need not be limited to the EPA's proposed building blocks so long as states meet their goals." The League cited the fast growing power sources such as geothermal, wind and solar methods which vastly outweigh the potential of fossil coal, oil and natural gas without resorting to biomass or other polluting forms of power such as nuclear.

Founded in 1984, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League is a non-profit environmental organization with projects and chapters in seven states.

-end-