

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGISLATION CUTS AIR MONITORING SITES- LEE COUNTY BASELINE FRACKING AIR MONITOR IN DANGER

GROUP SAYS BILL IS AN ATTACK ON COMMUNITIES

Raleigh- Yesterday, the North Carolina Senate passed S734, which will seriously diminish the state's ambient monitoring network. If it becomes law, the bill will require the Division of Air Quality to take any ambient monitor not required by the Environmental Protection Agency off-line by September 1, 2014. Additionally, the Lee County monitoring station, set up in 2013 to do baseline monitoring of the air prior to any hydraulic fracturing activities, may be on the list.

“This is an outright attack on communities,” said BREDL community organizer Therese Vick. “First, the air toxics regulations were devastated, then, the allowable ambient level of arsenic in our air was increased by nine-fold. Meanwhile, the state is reducing its enforcement. This is an all-out assault by industry on public health, aided and abetted by the legislature. It's unconscionable.”

The Bill has been referred to a House committee.

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