

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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Group Launches Radio Ad Campaign Asking Governor McCrory to Stop Duke Energy Coal Ash Dumping Plan

Raleigh- Joined by Lee and Chatham County residents, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) announced an ad campaign calling on the Governor to stop Duke Energy's plan to dump millions of tons of dangerous coal ash into clay mines located in Lee and Chatham counties. The ads, featuring children singing "Ashes, ashes, we all fall down" will run over the next two weeks on News Radio WPTF, 680 AM.

Standing in front of Governor Pat McCrory's office, BREDL community organizer Therese Vick said, "Aided and abetted by the North Carolina General Assembly, Duke came in like a thief in the night and is forcing Lee and Chatham Counties to accept this dangerous waste. The rush to permit is on- Governor McCrory must act now to stop this injustice." Debbie Hall, Environmental LEE member and Lee County mother and grandmother asked, "How much abuse and misuse can one tiny land area sustain? The heart of this little Carolina community will break under the weight of Duke Energy's toxic waste."

Vick, who has worked on waste issues since the 1990s, called the plan a "perpetuation of North Carolina's history of environmental injustice." She pointed out this toxic legacy, "When then Governor Hunt had a PCB problem in the late 1970s, he forced the PCBs on Warren

County, a poor community of color. Now, Governor McCrory has a coal ash problem- and he is doing the same thing.ö

The precedent set if the two sites are permitted is dangerous-there are almost 100 clay mines across North Carolina. BREDL has recommended a safer solution which would isolate the coal ash from the land, air, surface and groundwater, and that will keep the ash on Duke Energy property. The technology is used by the Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site.

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League was founded in 1984. The organization has a thirty-year track record of victories over polluting facilities. EnvironmentalLEE is a chapter of BREDL.

Audio files of ads attached

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