Permit No.	Scan Date	DIN
3612-INDUS-2008	**April 5, 2016**	**25886**

Jack A Tench
117Idlewood Lane
Belmont, North Carolina 28012

RECEIVED
March 22, 2016
Solid Waste Section
Asheville Regional Office

March 19, 2016

I am a resident in the South Point Road area of Belmont, NC. I live at 117 Idlewood Lane and have lived here since July 1978.

My home is in close proximity of Duke Power Plant Allen Power Plant and the Coal Ash pits that appear to be causing problems in our well water systems.

I have been contacted by the NC State Toxicologist and advised to not drink or cook with my well water. My testing samples included high levels of Vanadium, Chrome 6, Sodium, Potassium, Calcium and others.

My neighbors throughout my community have also been notified and advised to not drink or cook with their well water.

It is noted that the toxic elements in our water can occur in natural rock beds and streams and also occur and be enhanced in high amounts from seepage of coal ash deposits from both lined and unlined coal ash pits.

It is noted that Allen's leaking coal ash site is 60 years old and that no site in the state of North Carolina has as many neighbors notified of contaminated water as the Allen Station area.

Duke Power at this time has sent letters expressing concerns of the ash pit contamination and that they are not responsible for this contamination. Duke is providing us with drinking water at this time.

I have raised my family in this residence using my well water. I have had many pets to die since living here d/t cancer diagnosed by our veterinarian. My father passed away in 2011 with probable cancer and many others in our section have passed d/t cancer since moving to this address. All parties consumed this well water.

I am very concerned that the large number of residents in and around Allen, Belmont are not going to be able to use their well water d/t this toxicity. I am not sure the residents that have had long exposures to these elements will not have health related illnesses that develop d/t their exposure. I am not sure the de-evaluation of our property will allow for the economic survival of the residents in our community.

Initially, the toxicologist who is an expert in toxicity and contaminated resources, Dr. Rudo at numerous times contacted me and told me my water was not safe to drink or cook with at this time. Nancy Holt, a reknown expert on water and presently working with the Flint Michigan water issue has said our water is not safe to drink.

The current statement that the NC Political Committee, Duke Power , our Governor , State Government and the Deputy Secretary for Health Services a non toxicology specialist have concluded that our water is safe to drink and cook with. This is extremely confusing, unresponsible, and demeaning to our community and the citizens of this state. Politics and our elected officials have failed their responsibility to the citizens in North Carolina.

I am asking for help and support in assuring Duke Power and the State of North Carolina does the right thing for the residents of the Allen Community and the other areas in our state. We need to have quality drinking water , a peace of mind that health issues are not a part of this exposure to ourselves and family members, real estate value remains stable and the fact that the environment can not survive repeated, un checked deposition of hazardous coal ash in the soil and water of the progressive growing area of Gaston County.

The ash pits have got to be cleaned up and dealt with by the polluting industry effecting their existence and allowed to do so promptly by North Carolina Political System to assure our State mantains the integrity and strength North Carolina is recognized for, nationwide.

Allen needs and warrants an 'intermediate' or 'high' prioritization to secure excavation and to permanently remove this threat to our homes.

It is a fact that seeping coal ash ponds can and do create toxic water that is hazardous and unacceptable to human life. It is time for Duke to Clean up their mess to assure our land doesn't become a thing of the past.

Please help our community to restore a quality water system to our homes, provide economic stability to our property values, and maintain a peace of mind in caring for and maintain the health of our families.

I appreciate your time and support,

Respectfully,

Jack A. Tench

March 22, 2016

N.C. DEQ
Attention: Ed Mussler
1646 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC. 27699-1611

Dear DEQ,

My name is Debra Baker, and I live on Wildlife Rd. in Belmont, N.C.

Duke Energy's Allen Coal Fired Plant is my neighbor and so are the 11.5 million tons of coal ash stored there, just beyond my property line of my back yard.

My husband and I moved to Belmont in April of 1996.
We were expecting our first child, and we were buying our very first home. It was a happy time in our lives.

We were concerned about the power plant. But we were told there were not any problems with the plant because it was monitored. We were told the coal fired plant was put through extensive environmental testing. And at that time, we believed it...
Also, we were not aware of the cozy relationship between Duke and DENR.

My husband, Jack Baker, who was healthy when we moved to Belmont, started experiencing problems with severe breathing and lung problems about 6 years after we moved into our home next door to the coal ash lagoons. Our son was 6 years old.

We were told it was Respiratory Bronchiolitist Interstitial lung disease - something you acquire environmentally. He did not smoke, and never had...

My husband passed away on June 9th of 2008…
Jack was only 46 years old. He was way too young to lose his life.
Our son Charlie was only 11 years old. And now I was a widow.

Charlie also has had health problems off and on: pneumonia, bad allergies, with numerous bronchitis infections, and nosebleeds, which he still experiences to this day. In September of 2014, I had a heart attack at the gym - no personal history of heart disease.

Last April I received a certified letter from the state with the test results from my well water. The Vanadium level was 12.6 parts per billion, that is 42 times higher than the state's screening level, and my hexavalent chromium was 0.9 parts per billion, almost 13 times higher than the state's screening level.

I received a personal phone call from the state toxicologist. The state experts told me not to drink, ingest, or cook with our water.

These levels are significantly higher than the screening levels, which have been calculated to the standard one in one million increased risk of cancer. I have learned that this is what the state is legally required to do in its groundwater regulations. I expected something to be done about not the standard but about the source of contamination, for my family and neighbors.

Hexavalent chromium does not occur naturally but it is produced by certain industrial processes. Hexavalent chromium is the most toxic form of chromium and is shown to cause lung cancer. Hexavalent chromium is a carcinogen that can be harmful or deadly if inhaled, or ingested even in small amounts.
There is evidence that it can cause deadly cancers, when ingested (i.e. Eating or drinking). Skin exposure can be highly irritating causing burns, and painful rashes. There is a 1 in 20,000 chance of getting

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cancer just from the hexavalent chromium in my well. Would you want to be that one?

Although, the amount of chromium released into the air has been reduced by modern scrubbers, air exposure is still a possibility near active plants.

We now know that Duke Energy has been criminally negligent and has violated state law, the Clean Air and the Clean Water Act for years, including at plant Allen.

Duke claims to be a good company and care about their neighbors.

But facts show otherwise, that they have contaminated our water, and may have contributed to the sickness in our surrounding area. We have had so many deaths in our neighborhood.

I just want to say that I do not dislike Duke, and I am grateful for the electricity for my home, to have heat in the winter, and cool air in the summer.

Duke is cleaning up the coal ash at Riverbend as we speak, even though there were not any private wells affected. But, the state still has not decided what to require of plant Allen.
No one around Riverbend had contaminated wells. Lake Wylie also serves as a major drinking water reservoir. What's the difference? Why not Allen, too??

No coal ash site in North Carolina has had as many neighbors affected and told their water is unsafe to drink as Allen. The plant is 60-years old, and has long been documented to be leaking. Over 114,000 people rely on drinking water intakes immediately down stream.

Plant Allen has coal ash stacked over 75 feet high on the banks of the river, and has almost one mile of coal ash perimeter exposed to the flood-prone river. I know Allen's dams have failed in the past, and I

do not want the Catawba River to suffer the same fate as the Dan River.

The coal ash is not just connected to the groundwater – it lies in the groundwater. Over the years Allen's coal ash pits have sprawled such that they now surround a densely populated neighborhood on drinking water wells. Both Duke's own monitoring wells and the wells of neighbors have metals concentrations that exceed regulatory and health – based standards.

Coal ash in South Carolina is being cleaned up, and it is not even causing their rates to increase. Why can't WE have the same?? Excavation is the only way to prevent groundwater contamination and dam failure.

Our ponds were rated high risk in November; however DEQ changed our ranking because Duke did not supply enough information.
They have had plenty of time..... No Excuses!

Governor McCrory and his administration have not done anything to help our communities which are most affected by Duke's pollution.

I am deeply hurt that Governor McCrory and DEQ do not care that our lost loved ones were taken way too soon, and that they think our lives do not matter.

I am also concerned about the fact that my property value has gone down, from a previous appraisal. You try and sell my home surrounded by the coal ash lagoons... Would you and your family drink my water day in and day out? Would you buy my home??

Haven't my son and I been through enough? As his Mother I want our home, and water to be safe... I want peace of mind that I can pass our home down to him in the future without any fear of the water contamination.

Our water is a precious resource and once contaminated this can take several years to correct.

We Demand answers AND solution's to our contaminated wells in Belmont, and across the state.

We need and intermediate or high risk classification. We need to clean up this site and put this issue behind us.

Thank you for your time, and listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Debra A. Baker

Debra A. Baker
114 Wildlife Rd.
Belmont, NC. 28012
704-840-8026
704-825-5877

Debra Baker's
Well filter
114 Wildlife Rd
Belmont

March 22, 2016

N.C. DEQ
Attention: Ed Mussler
1646 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC. 27699-1611

Dear DEQ,

My name is Charles "Charlie" Baker and I live on Wildlife Rd. In Belmont N.C.

Duke Energy's Allen Coal Fired Plant is my neighbor, and so are the 11.5 million tons of coal ash stored there just beyond our property line.
My parent's bought their home, and moved here in April of 1996.
Mom was pregnant with me, and she and Dad were buying their first house.

They were always concerned about the plant, however they were told that the plant was safe, and it was tested regularly, and it was monitored.

I played all around the coal ash, and my friends and I rode our dirt bikes, and 4-wheelers from the earliest time that I can remember.
Growing up in Belmont was really great.

My Dad started getting sick with bronchitis infections when I was about 6-years old. It got so bad we had to take him to the emergency room. I remember through the years he was in and out of the hospital so many times. It just kept getting worse.
Dad started having major breathing and lung problems. The doctors told us That he had caught this environmentally, and they diagnosed him with Interstitial Lung Disease. Dad did not smoke, and never had.

My Dad passed away on June 9th of 2008.... He was only 46-years old. And I Was only 11years old! Now, I didn't have a Dad, and my Mom lost her husband, friend, and her family unit.

I have had health problems off and on, pneumonia, bad allergies, bronchitis, and nose bleeds, that I still experience to this day. Mom had a heart attack at the gym in September of 2014. No past family history of heart disease.

Last April we got a letter from the state telling us we couldn't use our water anymore, except for showers, and washing clothes, and dishes.
Mom went and bought bottled water. And then Duke started bringing us water about a week later. We thank them for supplying us with this water, but it is a real pain living off of bottled water. Life has really changed a lot.
Mom is scared and stressed out, I try to understand everything going on, but it's a lot.

We really believe that this Vanadium and Hexavalent Chromium in our water has caused us to have our health problems, and losing my Dad.
I know that Hexavalent Chromium is bad. It is 0.9 parts per billion from our test results, almost 13 times higher than the state's standard.
And yes I know Hexavalent Chromium is known to cause cancer, and none of it is safe.

Mom is now questioning everything she did in the last 19-years!
I drank from the hose pipe, played in the coal ash, and all of my friends too.
Mom wonders if this killed Dad, or made me sick, or caused her to have her heart attack.
And so many people in our neighborhood are sick, have cancer, breathing problems, and died of strokes, and major heart attacks.

I know that DEQ and the state changed our rating, from high to intermediate, because they said Duke didn't supply them enough information. However, they have had plenty of time, I have seen them drilling these test wells. One right behind our house.

We just want Governor McCrory to answer us, and to help our community. There are over 109 people in Belmont living off of bottled water for almost a year now. WE just want Duke and the state to make us a priority, and clean up our coal ash ponds, and to give us some real answers, and solutions to our problems.

Heck, we just want our lives back… Mom and I have been living like this for way too long.

I hope my comments make some sense to you, because I wanted to let you know what we have been going through.
And how our lives have changed.

Thank you for your time, and listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Baker
114 Wildlife Rd.
Belmont, NC. 28012
704-825-5877

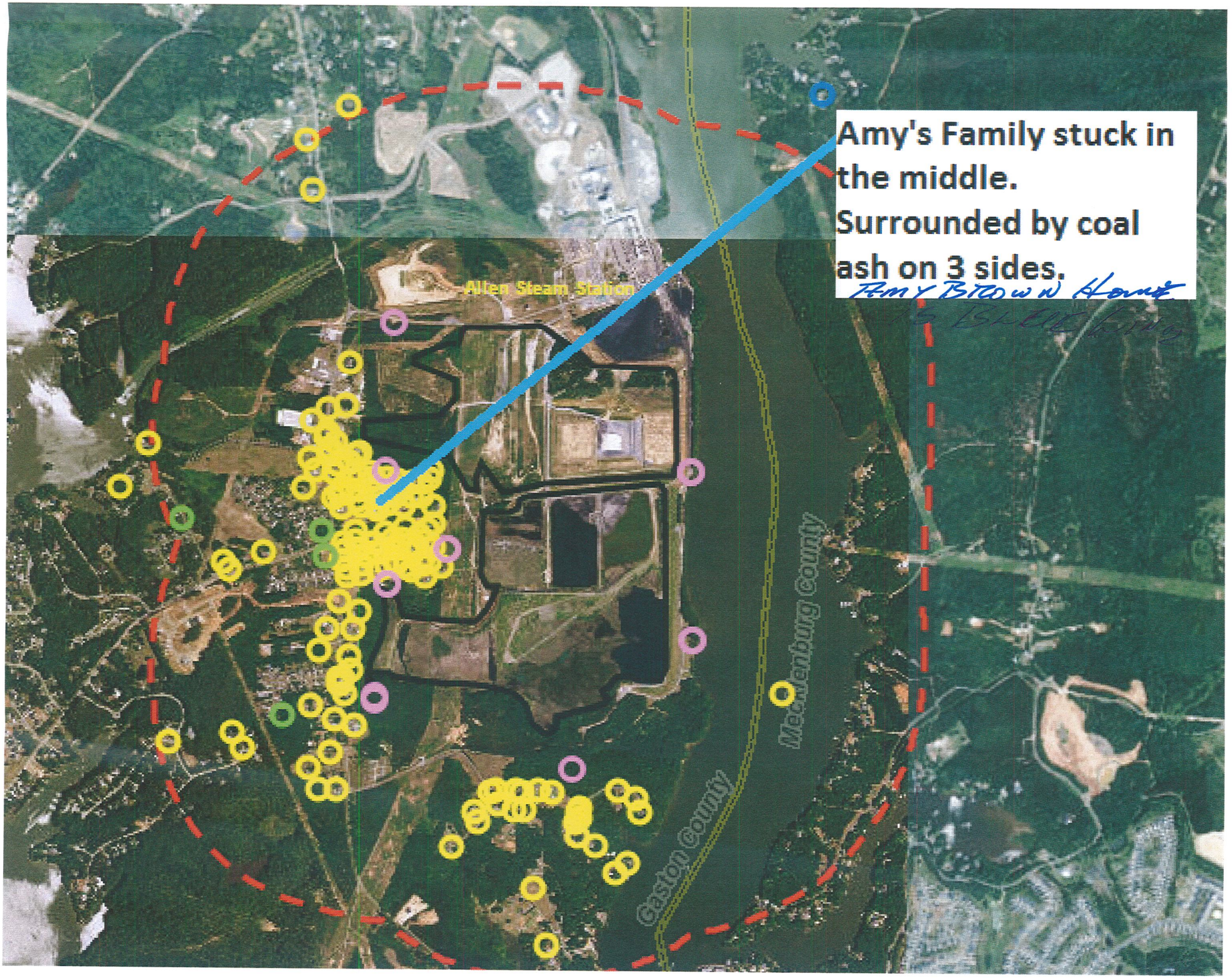
Sally Kneidel / 424 Bertonley Avenue / Charlotte NC 28211

I'm here to demand that the Allen coal ash dump be classified as high priority and moved to dry, lined storage away from waterways.

If it's capped in place, it will continue to pollute groundwater and nearby surface waters, and it may experience a spill or dam failure that could be catastrophic.

I'm also here to protest the corrupt mismanagement of the coal ash dumps by the McCrory administration and Duke Energy. McCrory manages our state with secret deals and backroom meetings, with shameful priorities. As a former Duke employee, Governor McCrory has steadily intervened on behalf of Duke during his entire time in office, placing their profit margin ahead of human health. Now, he's disbanded the only oversight DEQ had. So that DEQ can act as Duke Energy's customer service for profits, without regard to human health or our irreplaceable resources.

But you have an opportunity tonight to send a different message to the people of this state, to stand up for justice and for a community that's been shafted. Take that first step: classify Allen coal ash dump as high priority and move the coal ash to dry lined containers away from water. Tell the state you value people over Duke Energy's profits.


Amy's Family stuck in the middle.
Surrounded by coal ash on 3 sides.
Amy Brown Home
Allen Steam Station
Gaston County
Mecklenburg County