



**For Immediate Release**

Thursday, October 13, 2011

**Contact:**

Courtney Hanson

(404) 524-5999

[courtney@wand.org](mailto:courtney@wand.org)

## **Blue Ribbon Commission to meet in Atlanta, hear from local groups on nuclear waste**

The Obama-appointed Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on America's Nuclear Future will be in Atlanta on Tuesday, one stop of their five-city tour of the United States, to hear responses from community leaders, elected officials, technical and policy experts, environmental organizations and interested citizens on the draft report of their comprehensive review of nuclear waste policies in the United States.

The Commission, which operates under Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE), Steven Chu, is tasked with conducting a study of policies for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle, including all alternatives for storage, processing and disposal of civilian and defense used nuclear fuel, high level waste and other materials derived from nuclear activities.

Georgia WAND Executive Director, Bobbie Paul has been asked to address the BRC at Tuesday's meeting to present an environmental and nonprofit advocate perspective, which will take place at the Marriot Marquis, 265 Peachtree Center Avenue, Atlanta, GA from 8:30 am to 4:45 pm.

Representatives from Southern Company (Georgia Power parent company), Georgia Institute of Technology, and the Public Service Commission have also been asked to address the BRC.

"I hope citizens will show up, bear witness and give testimony because it's obvious that the industry and their minions are well represented at this meeting, but environmental and community organizations are not," Bobbie Paul said.

Speaking on behalf of the Georgia WAND community, including partners across the Southeast, and those living downwind and downstream of Georgia's two nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle, the organization opposes commercial nuclear power expansion in the United States, as well as new nuclear missions at Savannah River Site (SRS), a nuclear weapons Super Fund site near the Georgia border. SRS is located in neighboring South Carolina, directly across the Savannah River from Southern Company's nuclear PlantVogtle, where two reactors currently operate and ground has been broken for two more.

Recognizing the environmental, health and safety hazards suffered by those living in the shadow of nuclear weapons facilities and commercial nuclear power reactors, Georgia WAND advocates for Hardened On-Site Storage (HOSS) of existing nuclear waste and calls for the halt of new nuclear waste streams until a safe and thoroughly vetted federal repository solution has been established.

“HOSS is a sound solution to safe-guarding nuclear waste. It is not just about preventing terrorism, as mentioned in the draft BRC report; it would also prevent much of the radioactive releases during a catastrophe such as Fukushima.” Paul said.

Georgia WAND is also demanding the restoration of DOE funded environmental monitoring to the state of Georgia (through Georgia’s Environmental Protection Division.) to track the existing level of radioactive contaminants that are released from SRS due to failed existing nuclear waste storage solutions. This important monitoring, lapsed since 2003, would reveal radioactive impacts on vegetation, rainfall, well water, the Savannah River, livestock, peanuts and other crops and the air, specifically in Georgia’s Burke and Screven counties.

---

---