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Is Fermi using Russian Fuel?

While almost half of uranium used in American reactors comes from Russia, Kazakhstan, or Uzbekistan, it is difficult to know if it is being loaded and burned in Fermi.

Russia produces about 35% of the world's enriched uranium for reactors, and supplies about 20% of the U.S. industry, according to UxC LLC, a nuclear industry researcher.

Ready-to-insert nuclear fuel rods come from one of three companies: GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas LLC (GEH); Global Nuclear Fuel - Americas LLC (GNF); and Joint Stock Company TVEL (TVEL). TVEL is the Russian company, owned by Rosatom, a state-run agency founded by Putin in 2007.

DTE's filing for the new cycle fuel states Fermi was using GE14 and GNF3 and loaded 176 inserts of GNF3 during the refueling. So, GNF is Global Nuclear Fuel. Here is what the GE press release states about their new fuel.

"Lower costs are more important than ever in today's demanding energy market. GNF is designed to save utilities money by seeking to reduce batch fraction, lowering the average enrichment in fuel reloads, and extracting more power from the core."

(For an industry receiving billions in subsidies, why fret over using cheap fuel?)

While the fuel rods loaded at Fermi were not made by TVEL, we were unable to find out if the uranium came from Russia or its allies. Uranium was exempted from the oil and gas sanctions placed on Russia by the current administration.

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

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EPA Letter Re: Thermal Pollution

Fermi 2 is thermally polluting Lake Erie, and back in 2015, Kenneth Westlake, the Chief Operating Officer of the Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) submitted comments on DTE getting a license extension for Fermi Two. His comments highlighted Fermi's thermal pollution to Lake Erie.

"EPA recommends NRC and the applicant commit to ongoing monitoring of algal blooms in the vicinity of the Fermi National Pollutant Discharge Permit System (NPDES) outfalls. We recommend the applicant take reasonable steps to further reduce the temperature of discharge as a means of mitigating contributions to algal blooms in the western basin of Lake Erie."

The three-page letter is still informative. FYI <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML16007A008>

Fermi's Property Insurance

A current filing shows DTE's Insurance at Fermi is \$1.50 billion for Primary coverage with Nuclear Electric Insurance Limited; \$1.25 billion as excess insurance with Nuclear Electric; and \$300 million in excess insurance from Oil Insurance Limited.



Zero-Emission Credit Act of 2021

This is a follow-up to our October 2021 article about the Democratic push to support nuclear power. The Senate Bill number is S.2291 and the corresponding House number is H.R.4024.

S.2291 gained another co-sponsor last month, now totaling eight, all Democrats except for one Independent. HR4024 has twenty-one co-sponsors, 16 Democrats and five Republicans.

The Act would give tax credit for electricity produced by nuclear reactors to help them compete with cheaper, sustainable energy sources. The nuclear industry needs to die, so, politicians, let it.

DTE Executive Chairman Retires

DTE Energy Executive Chairman Gerry Anderson will retire after almost 30 years. He will be replaced by Jerry Norcia who stepped up to be Anderson's replacement as CEO when Anderson went to Executive Chairman.

Anderson is also on several boards where he will continue his role despite retirement from DTE, and he says he is not done advocating for a cleaner future,

"Climate change continues to be among the most important public policy issues of our time, and I intend to keep working to address it," stated Anderson. (*Will he advocate closing Fermi?*)

Do we expect changes in DTE policies? We see already that the retiring head honcho spells his name with a "G" and the new spells his with a "J."

Lights Out: DTE Shut Offs

Two groups, Outlier Media and ProPublica, did an in-depth feature article on March 18, 2022, showing DTE as bad guys for shutting people's electricity off during the pandemic.

"DTE disconnected customers 80,600 times in 2020 and more than doubled that number in 2021," stated the report. "DTE's rate was twice as high as the state's second largest utility, Consumers Energy..."

The article also tells us "DTE's price per kilowatt-hour is also higher than the largest utility in each of the other Great Lake's states."

Since 2011, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has approved six rate increases for DTE. "Over that same time period, DTE's revenues have increased by several billion dollars, due in part to those rate increases.

DTE is currently requesting a seventh-rate increase, worth an additional \$388 million in annual revenue.

DTE's MIGreenPower Program

Last month, DTE Energy's MIGreenPower program, a voluntary renewable energy program, has surpassed 50,000 residential subscribers.

"Our customers are demanding a grid of the Future, a modern new grid delivering clean and reliable energy, and we're delivering it," said Jerry Norcia, CEO of DTE Energy.

The program involves people paying extra money to have their electricity produced sustainably. What I cannot figure out is if all the electricity DTE produces (coming from a solar array, wind farm, coal plant, or Fermi) feeds into a common grid, how can DTE sort it out so that to be sure the electricity going to those people paying extra comes from a sustainable source.

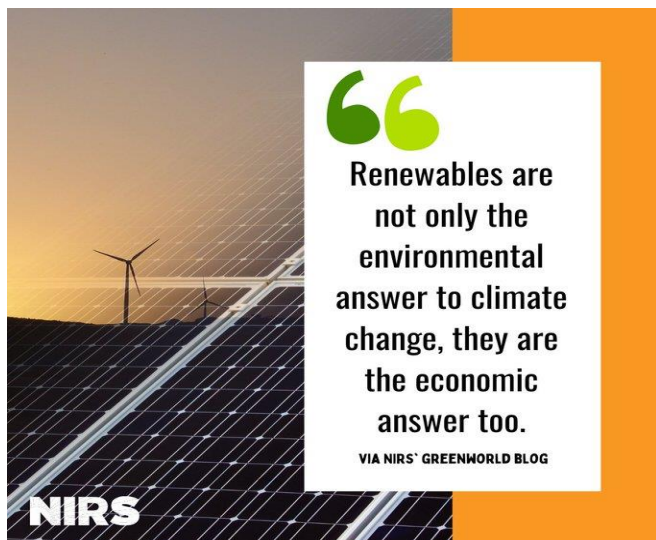
Make it all come from renewable sources.

House Investigates DTE Shutoffs

The U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee launched an investigation last month into reports of high customer shut-off rates by six utilities during the pandemic.

DTE Energy is named as one of the six, and the other companies are Dominion Energy, Duke Energy, Exelon, NextEra Energy, and Southern Co.

Combined, the companies received \$1 billion from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, but they still cut electricity to more than 930,500 households.



Sanctions on Russian Uranium?

The legislation the administration enacted on Russian coal, oil and gas imports does not include nuclear products.

Both Wyoming Senators (John Barrasso and Cynthia Lummis) have introduced a bill to ban all Russian uranium and fuel pellets. The bill is numbered Senate Bill 3856. So far, all the co-sponsors are Republicans.

The U.S. nuclear industry is lobbying the administration to allow uranium imports from Russia without the sanctions that vodka and other Russian products have imposed. There will be a hearing on March 31st – as we go to press.

Sweden has suspended all Russian uranium because of the Ukrainian aggression

DTE Wants Another Increase!

DTE filed for another rate increase in Michigan Public Service Commission, case number U-20836. DTE's request, if approved, would increase residential rates by 8.8%, compared to a 4.1% increase for industrial customers and a 7.5% increase for all customer classes.

In DTE's last electric rate case, residential customers had our rates increased by 5.4%.

Ohio Scandal Still Unfolding

A long-time political operative for utilities and telecom companies, Julia L. Johnson, is one of six members of FirstEnergy's board of directors who will not seek re-election this year under a tentative

settlement agreement in multiple shareholder derivative action lawsuits filed in response to FirstEnergy's multi-million-dollar bribery schemes in Ohio.

During Johnson's tenure on the board, FirstEnergy became the poster child for corruption in the utility industry. Federal prosecutors indicted Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder in July 2020 for racketeering charges connected to a bribery scheme that involved \$60 million secretly paid by FirstEnergy, and resulted in Ohio's House Bill 6.

The 2019 Ohio law was poised to deliver a \$1 billion ratepayer bailout to several coal and nuclear power plants owned by a bankrupt FirstEnergy subsidiary, plus a financial windfall for FirstEnergy's other Ohio utilities, before parts of the law were repealed last year.

CRAFT Public Zoom Meeting

This is an invitation to attend a zoom meeting with the CRAFT Steering Committee Team on Thursday April 21st from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We are not yet having In-Person meetings, but zoom is good. Here is the link for the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6559569802?pwd=ajMvRE5TNmVJaW1iWIRJalV2dnhZdz09>

March Fermi Documents Received

= **ML22055A98**. Zip file to extend nuclear source license for Trenton coal plant that is due to shut down in May.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22055A985>

= **ML22055B061**. Fermi's Annual Assessment Letter from the NRC, which states "The NRC concluded that overall performance at your facility preserved public health and safety."

= **ML20066B009**. Fermi's Property Insurance <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22066B009>

= **ML22067A091**. Core operating limits for refueling outage twenty-two. See Russia article, this page.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22067A091>

= **ML22080A036**. Security Baseline Inspection. The report states the inspection was done remotely because of Covid and no violations were found.

= **ML22075A087**. License Event Report for 8/22/22 “Unplanned Inoperability of High-Pressure Coolant Injection System. “The cause of this event was a voltage spike of unknown origin.”

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22075A087>

= **ML21055A068**. A ZIP file containing thousands of pages of documents dealing with changes, and the refueling outage. The file contains documents from ML21055A068, 061, 062, 063, 064, 065, 066, 067, 069, 070, 072, 073, 074, 076, 077, 078, 079, 080, 081, and 083.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21055A091>

= **ML21055A068**. The filing from zip that deals with the new fuel loaded at Fermi and a torus fix.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21055A068>

= **ML22081A073**. The Michigan Department of Energy Great Lakes Environment (EGLE) renewed Fermi 3’s Wetlands Permit.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22081A073>



Monroe Earth Day Expo

Now that the pandemic has calmed down, the Monroe Earth Festival will be held again. Yay! It will be Saturday, April 23rd from 11-2 p.m. at the Monroe Community College, Gerald Welsh Health Building. CRAFT will be tabling!

The event is free and a great outing for the whole family.



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