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## DTE Seeks Fat Rate Increase

Despite being turned down for a request rate increase three months ago, DTE has now asked for twice what it did last year - \$622 million more.

And yes, despite Michigan being the utility with more outages than any other state – besides Texas – and after more than 600,000 DTE customers lost power this year, we think DTE needs a DECREASE not the 14 percent they requested, which amounts to \$12.50 for an average monthly increase to residential customers.

Legally, DTE can ask for a rate increase every year and their current filing has already exceeded 5,000 pages. We guess it takes a lot of words to rob people with a fountain pen instead of a gun.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) held three hearings about the power outages and those who attended were most upset, including some of our representatives.

In reference to DTE's offer of \$25 credit for customers who were without power for days if those customers file for credit. Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel called on DTE and Consumers to automatically credit customers who suffer from outages.

"The rule updates will expand that to \$35, index it to the rate of inflation, add an additional \$35 for every additional day that you're without power, and maybe most important of all, make the credits automatic," said MSPC chair Dan Scripps during Lansing meeting after the approval.

"What we need is not another rate hike from DTE," said Rep. Erin Byrnes to the MPSC. "What we need is service!"

Michigan regulators increase the amount of bill credits available to ratepayers subjected to [prolonged power outages](#) and take steps to require utilities to restore power faster. (MLive)

## Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

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CONDITION OF THE UTILITY CUSTOMER AT DTE ENERGY

## License Renewal Commitment – 7c

The operating license for the Fermi 2 reactor was originally planned to expire after 40 years of operation, and that 40 years will be up in 2025. When DTE filed to get a 20-year license extension, CRAFT intervened in the process and tried our best to stop it from happening.

We had many good reasons, the filters on the torus were clogged with paint chips, etc. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) did give us a hearing before the Administrative Law Judge of the Atomic Energy Commission.

They ruled that DTE could run the reactor for another 20 years if they made several safety changes, which they labeled "Conditions." DTE was given until 2023, two years before the current license expired to meet the conditions – this year.

A few of the contentions have been met, such as the torus recoating. DTE filed to deal with the issue of degradation bolts, Condition 7c, last month. Their filings include two affidavits saying it is proprietary information; one by GE-Hitachi; the other by the Electric Power Research Institute.



## Here Comes the Hydrogen

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is partnering with utilities on four hydrogen projects at nuclear reactors. Hydrogen can be used for storing renewable energy and increasing power in gas turbines - production could begin in 2024.

The four reactors are Nine Mile Point in Oswego, NY; Davis-Besse in Oak Harbor, OH; Prairie Island in Red Wing, MN; and a Palo Verde unit in Tonopah, AZ. Production has begun at Constellation's Nine Mile Point.

## Guilty in Ohio Nuclear Scandal

A federal jury found both former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder and ex-Ohio Republican Party chair Matt Borges guilty of racketeering conspiracy over the House Bill 6 scandal – which involved way more people than these two, but we will stay tuned.

The judge will hand down the sentences eventually, possibly up to 20 years. Meanwhile, the two are free on bond. The Department of Justice could arrest more people involved, but they refused to comment on whether that would happen or not.

## Davis-Besse Gets New Owner

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced that the Vistra Corp purchased Davis-Besse from Energy Harbor, owner of the two

nuclear reactors at the center of the Ohio House Bill 6 that folded in 2019.

## Statewide Community Solar?

A bipartisan coalition led by Michigan Senators Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) and Ed McBroom (R-Waucedah Township) introduced Senate Bills 152 and 153 to begin the process of a statewide solar market for those people who cannot afford to foot the solar array cost alone.

“These small-scale, local solar projects will be particularly useful to residents, providing an opportunity to independently produce energy for themselves and their neighbors, and providing savings on energy bills for those who subscribe,” said Sen. McBroom, of the arrays which can be built on rooftops, parking lots, or brownfields.

We are glad to see bipartisan solar cooperation.

## Design Flaw After 35 Years

DTE "discovered" a design flaw in the control system for the mechanical draft cooling tower fan brakes that renders them incapable of operating during a design basis tornado - which is the only time they would be needed. It only took 35 years for this issue to be found.

## Is Palisades a Zombie Reactor?

Holtec has submitted another request to the federal government to reopen the Palisades nuclear reactor which started its final shutdown in June 2022 which was supposed to be permanent.

Holtec's attempt to reopen the reactor failed last November, but the NRC has not totally ruled the reopening out.

“This would be the first plant to enter the decommissioning phase and then try to restart,” an NRC official said at a public meeting.

Holtec officials said all they need to restart is to undo what they have done toward decommissioning. Two certificates would have to be removed: the certification of permanent cessation of operations and the permanent fuel removal. Then they could restore the license which wasn't supposed to expire until 2031.

Around 220 people are still working at Palisades, compared to more than 600 when the reactor was operating.



## CRAFT's Shut Fermi Video!

The CRAFT Team has produced a video explaining why the Fermi 2 nuclear reactor should be eliminated. Watch it [here on the CRAFT website home page](#).

## FYI – In the Climate News!

= FirstEnergy subsidiary Energy Harbor, which owns the two nuclear plants at the heart of the corruption scandal, is sold to Vistra Corp. for \$3.4 billion. (*Cleveland.com*)

= Most Michigan lawmakers who are set to consider increased accountability of the state's regulated utilities have accepted significant campaign contributions from those companies. (*Bridge Michigan*)

= Michigan's attorney general calls for stronger oversight of the state's regulated utilities following prolonged power outages after recent storms. (*WOOD-TV8*)

= Widespread outages in Michigan following recent ice storms have shifted Democrats' energy-related priorities from clean energy and climate change to grid reliability. (*MLive*)

= Detroit-based DTE Energy cut its operations budget to meet earnings projections months before a historic ice storm last month left nearly 500,000 customers without power. (*Bridge Michigan*)

= Michigan Democrats propose a bill that would require utilities to build and contract for 2,500 MW of energy storage by 2030. (*MiBiz*)

= Michigan lawmakers and residents press executives from the state's two large investor-owned utilities about recent prolonged outages that left hundreds of thousands of customers without power for days. (*Detroit Free Press*)

= Crews are working to clean up roughly 400,000 gallons of water contaminated with radioactive tritium that spilled at a Minnesota nuclear plant in November 2022; officials say it is not contaminating drinking water sources and it may take a year to fully resolve. (*MPR News*)

= Minnesota regulators say they did not share information with the public four months ago about a contaminated water leak at an Xcel Energy nuclear plant because it did not pose an immediate health threat. (*Associated Press*)

## Public Comment on Romulus Site

Three congressional representatives, Debbie Dingell, Rashida Tlaib, and Shri Thanedar sent a letter urging the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to reopen the public comment on the operating license renewal for a hazardous waste site in Romulus (near the Detroit Metro Airport) which received toxic waste from the Palestine, Ohio train derailment.

The lawmakers did not know the shipments were coming to Michigan until about 15% of the solid waste and about 7% of the liquid waste from the train derailment came into Michigan at Republic Industrial and Energy Services, the Romulus site, or the U.S. Ecology Wayne Disposal in Belleville.

The lawmakers halted the shipments and urged EGLE to hold a public hearing on Republic's license renewal and extend the comment period. EGLE agreed and the public comment will be reopened from April 1 – 30.

## Pow Wow Quilt Winner

Congratulations to Sunny Smith of Tecumseh for winning the raffle quilt at the Ann Arbor pow wow held at Skyline High School. The money raised was sent in solidarity to the Stop Cop City legal team.

CRAFT will be tabling at the Monroe Earth Fest and Ann Arbor on Earth Day, but we won't be raffling a quilt at either place. However, it is looking possible for the American Indian Health and Family Services pow wow in August.

## Wild Rice Cook-off on March 11!



**Yebishawn OldShield** tells the story of manoonin - wild rice. (Photo by Sarah Moore) Instead of lamenting the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fukushima disaster, we celebrated life with a traditional food sovereignty wild rice soup cook-off. Over 60 people (not counting a lot of beautiful children) attended to hear Yebishawn OldShield tell the story of manoonin (wild rice).

The cook-off winners were: First place, David Pitawanakwat; Second, Kaela Wabanimkee-Harris; Third, Anawake DeerInWater; Fourth, Jodi Branton; Fifth, Don Lyons, Sr.; and Sixth, Linda LaRoque Schuyler. Congratulations to all!



### *CRAFT Times*

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## March Fermi Documents Received

= **Event Number 56295**. EN Retraction of the Event Notification reported on 1/4/2023 as High-pressure Coolant Injection Inoperable. The new filing states HPCI wasn't inoperable.

= **ML23055B132**. Annual Assessment Letter. "Beginning on January 1, 2023, the engineering inspection frequency will transition from a triennial (3-year) to a quadrennial (4-year) cycle."

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23055B132>

= **ML22325A299**. Audit Plan in support of License Amendment Request for Tech Specs.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22325A299>

= **ML23066A212**. License Renewal Commitment 7c. See article, page 1.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23066A212>

= **ML23075A135**. Security Baseline Inspection Report. No violations.

= **Event Number 56429**. A design flaw in Fermi's Cooling Fan Brakes – discovered after 35 years. See article, page 3.

= **ML23066A135**. Amendment 4 of Fermi 1's License Amendment, 1,300 pages

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23066A135>