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“Protect Our Values” Not!

DTE has serious connections to a new dark money group named “Protect Our Values” that was legalized in May and whose sole aim seems to be to get Joe Bellino elected as Monroe County’s State Senator (Senate District #16).

Protect Our Values is a spinoff of another dark money group, Michigan Energy First, headed up by a DTE Vice President Renze Hoeksema. Hoeksema is also connected to other front groups including Alliance for Michigan Power, Michigan Energy Promise, and Clean and Sustainable Energy Fund.

Bellino has helped the industry in his role as Chair of the House Energy Committee by never allowing a vote on raising the solar cap in Michigan. He also accepted a DTE in-kind donation of \$1,500.

“They have all of this money to meddle in politics and try to pick and choose the lawmakers who are supposed to be regulating them,” said Nick Dodge of Michigan League of Conservation Voters. “That is a serious problem.”

OpenSecrets reports that DTE was fair in donating over \$32,000 to both the Republican and Democratic Senate Committees, and over \$30,000 to the Congressional Committees.

Earthquake Hits Near Fermi

On July 11th, a 2.4 magnitude earthquake hit in Monroe County near Luna Pier, within sight of the Fermi nuclear reactor.

“I’ve been in earthquakes out in California, and they don’t make a noise like that,” said Kay Axe, an Erie Township resident who heard an incredibly loud noise and felt shaking. “There was no continuing quaking. It was just one bang and that was it.”

Citizens’ Resistance at Fermi Two

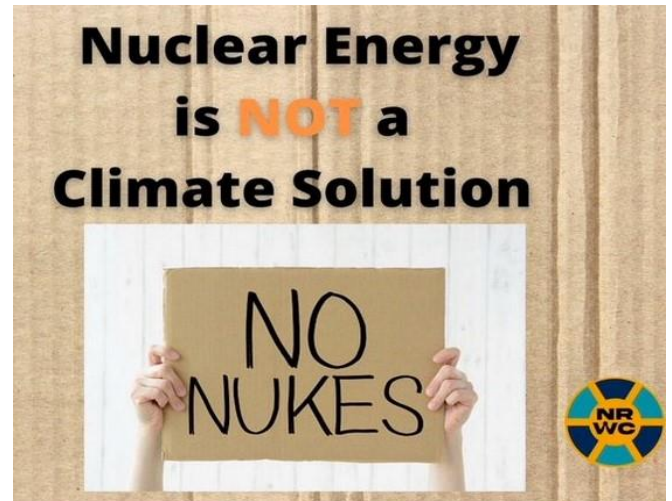
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<https://shutdownfermi.org>



Fermi’s NPDES Update Part 1

In April, DTE submitted their application to renew their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit which allows the Fermi reactor to withdraw 45.1 million gallons per day (MGD) of Lake Erie water to cool the reactor and then return the heated water to the lake.

CRAFT realizes we cannot stop the permit from being reissued, but our goal is to have the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) set some thermal limits on the water being returned to the lake. EGLE is the agency that oversees the permit instead of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which administers such permits in other states.

Currently, Fermi has no limits and the heated water discharged has been recorded as up to 97 degrees Fahrenheit. That is thermal pollution which jumpstarts algal blooms and invites invasive species into the area.

“Legally” the renewal of Fermi’s permit can take forever since DTE has met the requirements by filing. That is why we labeled this ‘Part 1’ – it is likely we will continue to discuss it each month.

Fermi also discharges into Swan Creek near its mouth into Lake Erie.



US Ecology Seeks to Expand Belleville's Wayne Disposal Site

As soon as the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) approved changes to the US Ecology Wayne Disposal Inc. (WDI) hazardous waste landfill, US Ecology applied to add new operations and increase the amount of waste sent there.

For more information, contact Christine Matlock at 517-290-4612 or MatlockC2@Michigan.gov.

License Event Report No. 2022-002

DTE filed a License Event Report detailing the cause of the May 11, 2022, High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) turbine trip.

“The cause was the HPCI Turbine Magnetic Pick-up Speed Element was found shorted, breaking the speed feedback circuit to the HPCI Controller.”

The element was replaced, and all is well – except that “There have been previous occurrences of unplanned HPCI inoperability in the past several years...” Then the document lists events in September 2018; September 2019; August 2021; and March 2022.

DTE's Source Material Licenses

More documents came in last month on the updated licenses for DTE's Source Material fixed gauges for their coal plants. However, the documents say the gauges will be tested for leaks by Fermi workers instead of by an independent company.

The license amendment request for the Trenton Channel Power Plant states the plant will be permanently shut down in June 2022 (*did that happen?*) and “A waste broker, Ram Services, Inc, has been contracted to be our Broker and/or Processor for disposal of our fixed gauges.”

House Bill No. 6019 – Nuke Study

The bill to help increase more nuclear power in Michigan passed the house and is now in the Senate Energy and Technology Committee. The wording seems so innocent, but the big picture is scary.

Holtec International submitted Part II of its application to the Department of Energy (DOE) to build four small modular reactors (SMRs). Holtec is the major decommissioning corporation and maker of dry cask canisters.

Holtec said it has entered into an agreement with Entergy will evaluate the potential to have a SMR built on one or more of its existing sites.

Call the Committee chairperson to say it is a waste of money to study new Michigan nuclear reactors,

Dan Lauwers (R) Chair, 517-373-7708
SenDLauwers@senate.michigan.gov

FYI - In the News

= EGLE approves US Ecology Wayne Disposal, Inc.'s hazardous waste management facility operating license major modification.

= An organization named Open Secrets published DTE's money for and to political campaigns. Here is their report and overview.

<https://www.opensecrets.org/orgs/dte-energy/summary?id=D000000561>

= Large Michigan companies are pursuing wind energy power purchase agreements in other states as major utilities in Michigan run out of space in their voluntary programs. (*Checks and Balances Project*)

= The Biden administration announces a new \$56 million program to help spur U.S. solar product manufacturing. (*Reuters*)

= The Democratic candidate for Ohio governor releases a climate and clean energy agenda that includes replacing members of the Public Utilities Commission in light of an ongoing corruption scandal and powering state government operations

entirely with renewables by 2030. (*Ohio Capital Journal*)

= A Michigan energy regulator [welcomes a discussion](#) over electricity capacity but says the state's power grid is not at risk of shortfalls in the near term. (*MiBiz*)

= The Biden administration is set to announce a [new effort today](#) to deliver more solar power to low-income homes by providing subsidies for community solar subscriptions. (*Politico*)

Tabling at Bonnie Raitt Concert



CRAFT Team Members Jim Sherman, Kathleen Peabody, Rita Mitchell, and Nora Berry tabling at the Bonnie Raitt and Mavis Staples concert. (Photo by Michael Peabody)

Don't Waste Michigan was invited to table at Bonnie Raitt's concert in Meadow Brook Amphitheatre in Rochester Hills, and CRAFT went in under that banner.

"As a pretty new member of CRAFT, I was blown away by the conversations that were sparked with passersby," said Nora Berry, an Ann Arbor high school student. "Those who were intrigued would make their way to the table as soon as they realized it was about anti-nuclear activism which was heartwarming."

Berry goes on to talk about a man repeating the question, "So what do we do about it? How do we get it done?" and stayed for what felt like 45 minutes to discuss it with the group.

"Seeing that level of engagement definitely helped to restore some faith in me about the fact that this type of work doesn't fall on explicitly deaf ears and that there are people who want to get it done alongside us!" Berry said. "We don't need any more reactors and Shut down Fermi!"

Algal Bloom in Lake Erie

The Monroe County Health Department received positive results from a blue-green algae bloom, known as cyanobacteria, a harmful algal bloom (HAB) found in both Sterling State Park and Luna Pier Beach near Fermi.

Standing on the beach of Sterling State Park, one can see Fermi's cooling towers on the left and DTE's coal plant on the right. Because both facilities use Lake Erie water for cooling, the water is returned to the lake heated, that jumpstarts algal blooms.

Thermal pollution is a reason CRAFT is petitioning the Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes Environment (EGLE) to set temperature limits when they renew Fermi's permit to discharge heated water into the lake.

MISO Transmission Lines

Ever wonder how the electricity gets from Fermi or a coal plant into your home? Most know the power is hooked onto the grid at the source where it is produced, and then runs through the lines in the "Transmission Corridors" the lines that eventually feed our appliances. New corridors are coming.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) represents almost two hundred power generators and transmitters across the Midwest and the directors approved a \$10.3 billion upgrade of transmission systems across nine states, including Michigan – in which two of the eighteen projects are planned at a cost of \$1 billion.

"The new transmission lines will facilitate power-sharing between states," said James Gignac of the Union of Concerned Scientists. "For Michigan, the set of lines come from Iowa and Northern Missouri, through Illinois, northern Indiana and into Michigan."

The projects are called Tranche which is French for a slice of the whole. ITC, owner/operator of Michigan's transmission corridors, will now begin the permit process with the Michigan Service Commission Tranche 1's approval.

July Fermi Documents Received

= **ML22178A209**. Amendment No. 29 to License No. 21-02335-05, a fixed gauge license.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22178A209>

ML22167A112. Request for Info for Material License 21-02335-06. And

ML22181B034. Amendment #23 to Rad Material License No. 21-02335-06. See zip below.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22181B041>

= **ML22187A125.** Request for info for NRC Triennial Heat Exchanger/sink Inspection.

=**ML22182A481.** Amendment #16 to License 21-02335-12.

= **ML22164A472.** Email concerning License No. 21-02335-12. Adds St. Clair Power Plant as the site. Document in Zip file below.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22182A490>

=**ML22187A109.** License Event Report No. 2022-002 “Unexpected high Pressure Coolant Injection Turbine Trip.” See article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22187A109>

= **ML22203A040.** A zip file containing six filings for Source Material Licenses.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22203A040>

= **ML22195A047.** Source Material License 21-02335-06 Amendment application.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22195A047>

CRAFT Zoom Public Meeting

This is an invitation to attend a zoom meeting with the CRAFT Steering Committee Team on Thursday August 25th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We look forward to In-Person meetings, but not yet. Here is the link for the meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6559569802?pwd=ajMvRE5TNmVJaW1iWIRJalV2dnhZdz09>

Zoom in and help brainstorm on convincing DTE to phase out Fermi 2.



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