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DTE Vows No More Coal in IRP

DTE Energy moves up retirement of its coal-fired plants in Monroe (the third worst polluter in the country) by three years, leaving Michigan without coal burning plants after it closes its Belle River Power Plant. Two of Monroe's four units will retire in 2028, and the other two in 2032.

This decision stems from a lawsuit against DTE's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) submitted to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) in 2019. DTE said in a press release that the agreement was settled by DTE, the MPSC, the Michigan Attorney General's office, and environmental agencies among almost two dozen.

Michigan law requires power companies to file an IRP every five years, making DTE's next one due by December 2026. DTE plans to announce then how they will replace the coal power. No mention of changes at Fermi 2, although the 2026 containing plans for more nuclear would not be surprising.

A negative ruling in the settlement allows DTE to charge its ratepayers for a 9% return for DTE shareholders on the Monroe plant after its retirement.

A positive ruling is that DTE will have to disclose political donations of \$5,000 or more. This was a welcome note from most of the twenty-one groups involved in the settlement.

The plan also requires DTE to retire its River Rouge gas-fired peaking plant, and DTE is also required to study the potential retirement of three additional gas-fired peaking plants in environmental justice communities. DTE will also convert the Belle River Coal plant to gas.

"I think it's important for us all to be clear that settlement deals are deals and DTE did get something in this deal," said Jackson Koeppel, an expert witness.

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

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Nuclear power
industry

Nuclear weapons
industry



Graphic: AntiNuclear.net

UM Funded to Promote Nukes

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded a total of \$7.5 million in grants to the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan (UM) in Ann Arbor.

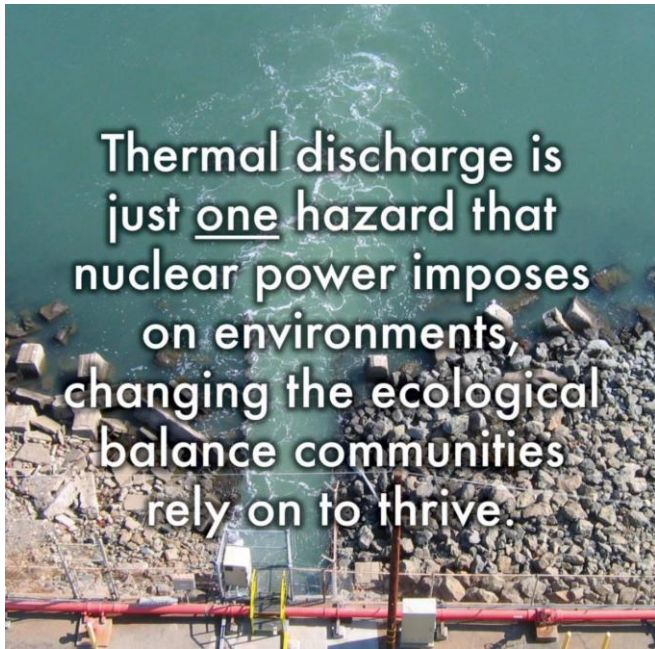
The largest of the grants is \$3 million which is dedicated to speeding up the licensing process for advanced nuclear reactors.

Included in the projects receiving a million dollars each is one to survey communities in New Mexico to see which one has the least resistance to hosting a nuclear reactor or nuclear waste.

Another million goes for testing impurities in reactor waste that could possibly be used as fuel in sodium-cooled breeder reactors.

Another is for a tool to detect defects in 3D printed nuclear parts. Another is to create a tool to detect defects in 3D printed nuclear parts. A bit less money for modernizing nuclear engineering education.

Michigan has three operating reactors: two units at Donald C. Cook in Berrien County, and Fermi.



F3 in the NPDES Application

Fermi 2's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit expired over a year ago, but DTE is allowed to continue using Lake Erie water until the Michigan Environmental, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) issues a new permit; hopefully, with Thermal Limits since Fermi currently has none,

The permit application is massive, and here is what it states about a potential Fermi 3.

“The current site plan for Fermi 3 indicates that three of the identified on-site waterbodies will be directly impacted. The north canal and isolated central canal will be completely filled in along with a portion of the south canal. Permanent impacts in the north canal and isolated central canal will result in the loss of all aquatic organisms and their habitats, while impacts in the south canal will result in minimal losses. Indirect impacts associated with construction of Fermi 3 will be related to surface water runoff, sedimentation of habitats, increased turbidity, and erosion. These impacts may temporarily interfere with, but should not inhibit, the normal life processes of many of the organisms identified by this study. Most of these organisms are considered tolerant species that are common to areas where natural disturbances occur and are able to adapt to temporary fluctuations in the environment.”

Save Lake Erie from a Fermi 3! And Fermi 2!

Nuclear Leadership Bill, S.1111

The American Nuclear Leadership also known as “Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy Act of 2023” or the “ADVANCE Act of 2023” and is another cash cow for the nuclear industry.

It includes a 20-year extension of the Price-Anderson Act, a 1957 law which caps the nuclear industry's liability for nuclear disasters at only \$13 billion.

It would promote nuclear reactor exports (except Russia and China) and train foreign workers. It would also allow foreign ownership of American reactors.

The bill currently has nineteen sponsors and needs to be voted down. Please tell your senators to not pass this.

Palisades, the Zombie Reactor

Holtec requested \$300 million from the state of Michigan to reopen the closed reactor and got half of that in June without any public debate. Holtec is also applying for billions in federal loans.

A closed – and partially dismantled – nuclear reactor has never been reopened and it would take years to do so. Meanwhile investing in renewables would be faster, cheaper, and safer.

The federal representative from that area Bill Huizenga asked John Kerry, special presidential envoy for climate, about Palisades and its restart effort. The plant, located in Covert Township, is in Huizenga's congressional district and Kerry said the current administration is very pro-nuclear.

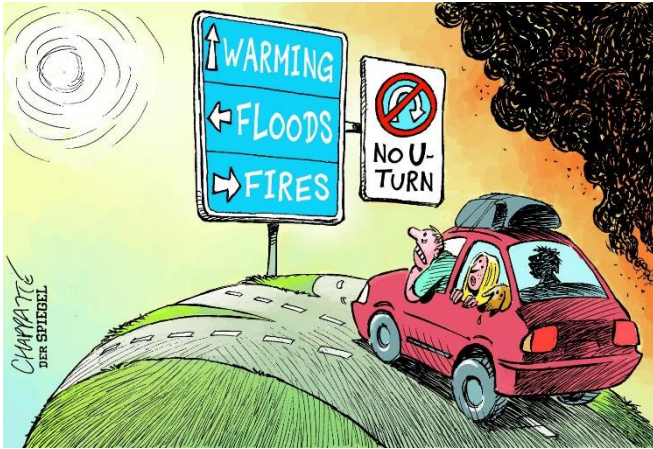
"All the king's horses and all of the king's men shouldn't waste taxpayer money trying to run this zombie reactor again" stated Michael J. Keegan, Palisades Intervenor for Don't Waste Michigan.

Walberg Blames Farmers

U.S. Representative Tim Walberg (R-Tipton – which includes Monroe County) did an editorial in the Monroe News that he is reintroducing his bill, the Great Lakes Agricultural Stewardship Act “to help farms minimize agricultural pollution risks, like harmful algal blooms on Lake Erie.”

The Monroe News also had an article on July 4, 2023, saying this year's algal blooms will be smaller, and states that the “goal of reducing phosphorus by 40% by 2025 won't be met.” Those goals were set in 2015 by the governors of Michigan and Ohio and the Premier of Ontario.

Neither article mentions the thirty pounds per day of phosphorus that Fermi discharges into Lake Erie.



NRC Open House in Monroe

Only two members of the public showed up for the NRC's "Public Outreach" to discuss how good Fermi is. We decided to celebrate the Summer Solstice instead of our annual trek to hear lies.

Cooling Fan Brakes Inoperability

The License Event Report reads, "In any case, the fans would be able to perform their design function with the brakes inoperable under all conditions except a Design Basis Accident tornado scenario."

There have been two tornadoes in Monroe County so far this year, and one of them was in Frenchtown Township where Fermi is located. Luckily neither hit Fermi, and hopefully none will.

FYI – Climate Crisis News

= DTE Energy CEO and Chair Gerardo Norcia faced questioning from Michigan lawmakers over rate increases, power outages, and his large salary. Norcia blames the outages on aging infrastructure and has plans to fully automate systems within six years to restore power faster and more efficiently. (Bridge Michigan)

= Michigan lawmakers included \$150 million toward the effort to restart the Palisades nuclear plant as part of a record \$81.7 billion state budget passed last week. State officials contributed millions in taxpayer dollars toward Holtec International's effort to get the nuclear plant upgraded and fired back up to provide 800 megawatts of carbon-free, base-load power as the energy sector transitions away from fossil fuels. (MLive)

= A nearly \$15 million federal grant will help Michigan plan for improved grid reliability and non-wire alternatives. (MLive)

= Detroit-based DTE Energy announces it will close one of the largest U.S. coal plants in 2032, three years earlier than planned, and build a 220 MW battery storage facility as part of its revised clean energy plan. (Crain's Detroit Business)

= A flood of legislation has surfaced in Congress to speed up plans to build U.S. reactors, though their fate in the U.S. House and Senate remains unclear. (E&E News)

= The University of Michigan receives \$7.5 million in federal funding for several research projects related to nuclear energy development. (Detroit News)

= Michigan utility regulators today are set to consider an expedited clean energy transition negotiated in a proposed settlement between DTE Energy and environmental groups. (Michigan Advance)

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Fermi 2 License Amendment # 223

The NRC granted DTE License Amendment No. 223 to change Fermi 2's technical specifications on the request DTE put in on August 4, 2022. The original request was filed on June 5, 2020, and the issue went back and forth until the NRC and DTE could agree on how to handle this.

The challenge is the water level below the top of active fuel, making it difficult to test without alarms going off for low water. The two agencies finally decided to let Fermi do the test manually.

The changes also include, "DTE Electric Company may make changes to the approved fire protection program without prior approval of the Commission..."

July Fermi Documents Received

= Licensee Event Report No. 2023-001-01. "Loss of Mechanical Draft Cooling Tower Fan Brakes during High Speeds Leads to Loss of Safety Function and Inoperability." See page 2.???

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23177A043>

= **ML23122A233**. License Amendment #223. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23122A233>

= ML23187A456. NRC report on their open house. Only two members of the public showed up.

= **ML23199A247**. Email from NRC to DTE notifying them it will take until January 2025 for them to process the licensing amendment request. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23199A247>

= **ML23206A127**. Notice of Enforcement Discretion which means the NRC will let DTE slide on the “hours past Action A.1 expiration, (i.e., until 11:24 p.m. on, July 25, 2023). You asked for enforcement discretion to allow continued plant operation during the time needed to restore residual heat removal service water mechanical draft cooling tower fan “D.”

Detroit Golden Rule Events

See the insert for events planned in Michigan for the Peace without nukes boat, the Golden Rule. Not listed in the brochure is the walk to Atwater Brewery at 5:00 pm (237 Jos Campau) with the Detroit Marching Party Band.

Plutonium correctly named after Pluto, the God of Hell



Oppenheimer and Barbie

Two “blockbuster” movies opened last month, causing a stir, Barbie, and Oppenheimer, which is a good history lesson involving portions of his life.

The State Theater in Ann Arbor lost about \$30,000 in refunded tickets sales because their power was out.



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