



**Aug. 2021 CRAFT Times vol. 8 no. 8**  
(Fermi 2 nuclear reactor & other environmental news)

## **Fermi's Lake Erie Discharge Exceeds Copper Limits**

In August 2020, DTE requested that Fermi submit quarterly reports to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) instead of monthly.

Michigan is an “agreement” state which means a state agency oversees Fermi’s National Pollution Discharge Eliminating System (NPDES), allowing Fermi to withdraw up to 45.1 million gallons per day of Lake Erie water for cooling and then discharge it back into the lake with added chemicals. EGLE approved the request in September of 2020.

While preparing the June quarterly report, it was noted that the June 1, 2021, grab sample reported the copper content was 41.2 micrograms/liter and Fermi’s permit only allows up to 40 m/l. Another sample was taken on June 15<sup>th</sup> and that came back within Fermi’s permit limit.

A discussion between DTE and EGLE was closed to the public.

The NPDES permit was formerly administered by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) before being reorganized under EGLE by Gov. Whitmer in 2019. The DEQ allowed Fermi to continue discharging into Lake Erie on a permit that expired in 2014.

CRAFT suspected the reason was that there were no limits on Phosphorus and Copper in the old permit. We pressured them until a new permit was issued with limits on Phosphorus and Copper.

## **Citizens’ Resistance at Fermi Two**

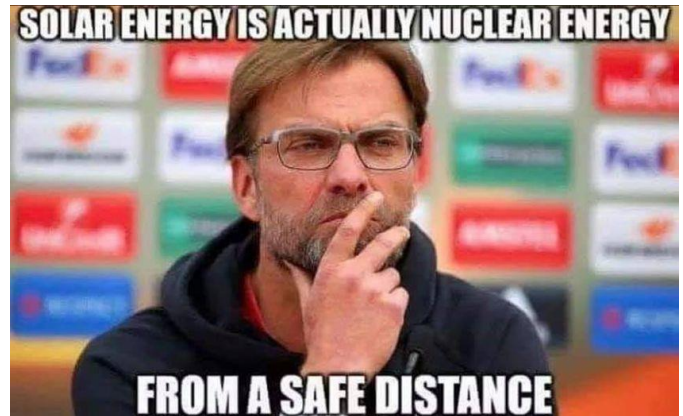
(CRAFT) telephone **313-286-3827**

Post Office Box 401356, Redford MI 48240

[shutdownfermi@gmail.com](mailto:shutdownfermi@gmail.com)

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## **NRC Former Chair Says No Nukes**

Allison MacFarland, former NRC Chairperson and currently Director of Public Policy and Global Affairs at the University of British Columbia, penned an article “Nuclear Energy Will Not Be the Solution to Climate Change.”

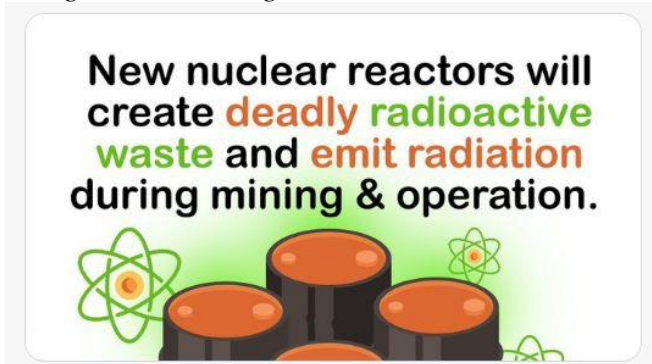
“The world is almost out of time with respect to decarbonizing the energy sector,” wrote MacFarland of climate change whose threats have helped generate interest in nuclear power to help. “But when it comes to averting the imminent effects of climate change, the cutting edge of nuclear technology will prove to be too little, too late.”

MacFarland goes on to explain that new reactors would take a minimum of ten years to build, and cost billions of dollars, and that is on designs already licensed.

“Nuclear energy will not be able to replace other forms of power generation quickly enough to achieve the levels of emission reduction necessary to prevent the worst effects of climate change,” stated MacFarland. “We need strong government support of non-carbon emitting energy technologies that are ready to be deployed today, not ten years.”

MacFarland is the second former head of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to come out against nuclear energy. The first was Gregory B.

Jaczko who wrote a book against it, *Confessions of a Rogue Nuclear Regulator*.



## DTE Reply to NRC re: Welds

Back in 2020, DTE filed a Relief Request for Fermi's "Fourth Ten-Year Inservice Inspection" and filings have been going back between DTE and the NRC ever since.

In the last NRC filing, they state that they have been made aware of a weakness in the "Fracture Toughness of Irradiated Stainless Steel for BWR (Boiling Water Reactor) Core Shrouds."

The communication "was received by DTE and promptly entered into the Fermi 2 Corrective Action Program (CAP) for review and evaluation," replied DTE, adding "Therefore, DTE hereby withdraws the request..."

## Fermi's Evacuation Plan, Part 2

We believe everyone in a 50-mile radius should be aware of the danger of a serious accident at Fermi, although DTE and the government think only those in a 10-mile radius need to be informed. That is why we are sharing info from DTE's booklet.

One surprise I had is the booklet states that if a person is outside when the sirens go off, they need to go inside, take off clothing and bag them, then shower and – do not use a conditioner on your hair. What? Then take a radio and go to the basement.

Have a plan ready in case people are instructed to evacuate and go to a Reception Center to check in - in case people are looking for you.

The Reception Centers are in Bedford, Dundee, Mason, Summerfield, Whiteford High Schools, and Ida Public Schools in Monroe County. Taylor High School and Wayne County Community College in Wayne County.

The evacuation centers will not take pets. And "Not all of the Reception Centers may be opened during an evacuation."

And here is an unreasonable demand, "do not attempt to pick up children" because schools have their own evacuation plans.

## Ohio Bribery Case Update

FirstEnergy, the main culprit in the \$600 million bribery scheme to have Ohio ratepayers bail out the nuclear reactors, has made a deal with the government to stop further prosecution.

The company agreed to pay \$230 million and agreed to other conditions. The criminal case will be dropped if the company continues to cooperate in sorting out which politicians received kickbacks. That list included a lobbyist who became Ohio's top utility regulator.

Half of the \$230 million penalty will go to the feds and the other half will be paid to a program to benefit Ohio's ratepayers. FE also must forfeit \$6 million seized from one of its "dark money" groups – Partners for Progress - which was used to funnel the money to the politicians. The governor says he will donate to the Boys and Girls Club the amount that FirstEnergy donated to his campaign.

FirstEnergy's gross was \$10.8 billion last year.

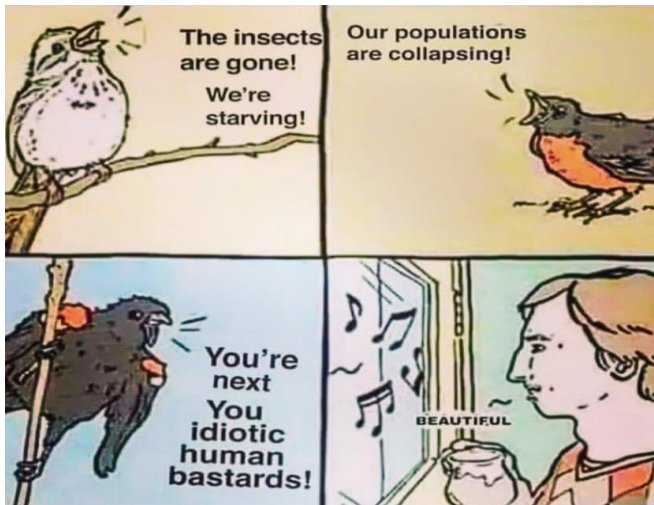
## CRAFT Signs on to BN Filing

We were one of 72 organizations including Beyond Nuclear (BN) and Nuclear Information Resource Service (NIRS) who signed on to Terry Lodge's filing against the NRC changing laws to exclude certain categories from the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

"NRC's proposed expansion of categorical exclusions could exempt dozens of things from environmental and safety reviews which are currently required to be considered under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Atomic Energy Act," said Diane D'Arigo of NIRS. "Some of these we, the public, have challenged and won on in the past - now NRC wants to sweep them under the rug, using a technicality that is not justified."

D'Arigo goes on to explain that NRC's proposal is an attempt to sweep under the rug (categorically exclude) many potentially dangerous activities, including uranium milling, irradiated fuel storage,

managing high and "low" level waste transportation, and closing and decommissioning uranium mills and nuclear power reactors.



## DTE “Spinoff” & Carbon Capture

DTE purchased DT Midstream (DTM) a couple of years ago and threw it out as a separate company this year. The company started trading on the stock market on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

DTM operates almost 1,200 miles of pipelines and over 1,000 miles of gathering lines in the gas-rich Marcellus, Utica and Haynesville basins. And they are looking to add more.

According to DTM’s CEO David Slater, the company is actively working to slash its greenhouse gas emissions and sees carbon sequestrations as the way to go.

Carbon sequestration is the long-term removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Slater expects DTM’s net earnings to be \$750 million this year. In another article, Slater uses the 7-year history before DTE bought DTM as a clean slate and calls the company a “pure-play.”

## NRC Says No to 40-year Extensions

After floating a plan to change 20-year reactor license extensions to 40-years, the NRC decided not to do so since that would allow reactors which have had their license extended to be eligible to operate for 100 years! Fermi included.

One member (out of 8 presenting testimony) of the public was allowed to be in the meeting which discussed this plan. That person was Paul Gunter of Beyond Nuclear.

## July Fermi Documents Received

= **ML21187A166**. NRC Summary of Webinar to discuss Fermi. No mention of dialog or comments.

= **ML21182A136**. Response to Request for Info re: Relief from Fourth Ten-Year Inservice testing. See DTE Reply article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21182A136>

= **ML21193A174**. License Exam Report. Two people passed and were issued operator licenses.

= **Event Number 55357**. Fermi exceeded the NPDES limit for copper discharges. See page 1.

## Special Inspection at Davis-Besse

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will do a special inspection at the Davis-Besse (D-B) reactor in Oak Harbor, Ohio after multiple diesel generator failures and a “complicated” unplanned shutdown on July 9<sup>th</sup> of this year.

The reactor’s two emergency generator have failed four times and the station-blackout generator failed during testing.

D-B was formerly owned by FirstEnergy and is one of the two reactors that the Ohio corruption scandal was intending to bail out.

## DTE Energy Music Goes to Pot

A cannabis lounge is coming to the DTE Energy Music Theater, which was formerly Pine Knob, after signing an agreement with Lume.

Lume is the biggest cannabis company in Michigan with 21 operating dispensaries and 1 million square feet of plant under cultivation. An agreement with the entertainment company 313 Presents made Lume the official cannabis at DTE.

The 5-year agreement will eventually include Lume Tree House, a consumption lounge, and was officially kicked off on July 24<sup>th</sup> of this year.

## Small Modular Nuclear Reactors

A Utah energy cooperation decided to reduce its planned construction of 12 Small Modular Nuclear (SMN) reactors to 6 in a first-time project that the government is supporting in what they say will help stop climate change.

The NRC has approved a design for the reactors to be built in Idaho Falls at the Idaho National Lab.

## Radioactive Material Missing

A notification from the Ohio Bureau of Radiation Protection announced that a shipment of Iridium-192 went missing from its carrier Prime NDT Services. The shipment was headed to an undisclosed facility in Michigan.

Iridium-192 can be used in industrial gauges that inspect welding seams in pipelines and in medicine to treat certain cancers.

The NRC report stated I-192 is a Category 2 sourcer which “could casuse permanent injury to a person who handled them for a short time (minutes to hours).

## Exelon Moves to Shut 2 Reactors

Exelon, the parent company of Illinois’ scandal-plagued Commonwealth Edison, filed plans with the NRC to shut down two nuclear reactors for which it seeks state subsidies to keep open.

Exelon argues the subsidies are necessary to keep the reactors open and save ratepayers from carbon pollution of fossil fuel producers.

Their threat to close the reactors mirrors the company’s strategy from 2016, when it won approval for subsidies for two others of its reactors. That is now at the center of a federal investigation in which ComEd has admitted to a bribery scheme to win support for the subsidies.

The governor has proposed a deal for ratepayers to commit to a \$700 million bailout of the Exelon reactors, but the lawmakers left for the summer without voting on it.

The reactors are Byron, slated for closure in September and Dresden, to close in November.



To Tonya Wapskineh for both of her donations!

Do you Want to Donate to CRAFT?

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/protecting-the-waters-fundraiser-for-craft> - or send a check made out to CRAFT Times.

Or if you want it to be tax-deductible, make the donation out to Beyond Nuclear, (6930 Carroll Ave., Ste. 400, Takoma Park, MD 20912) and put FBO CRAFT in the memo line. Or to donate online, contact Cindy Folkers at [cindy@beyondnuclear.org](mailto:cindy@beyondnuclear.org)

= **CRAFT will not have a public meeting in August, but they will resume in September.**

= **This month is the 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.**



***CRAFT Times***

Post Office Box 401356

Redford MI 48240