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DTE's Integrated Resource Plan

An integrated resource plan (IRP) is the plan on how a company intends to generate power for the next 20 years. DTE announced their IRP on November 3rd for its 2.3 million customers in southeast Michigan.

The plan includes closing the Monroe Power Plant, one of the largest coal plants in the country, 12 years earlier than the planned date of 2040. (*And likely replace it with a fracking gas plant.*)

The Monroe plant holds the title of being the nation's second largest greenhouse emitter. Built in 1971, the four-unit is the nation's fourth largest and a serious carbon dioxide polluter. It is also the largest employer in Monroe. Two units will begin closing in 2028, and the other two in 2035. The plant now produces 30 percent of DTE's electricity, while Fermi 2 produces 20 percent.

DTE's Belle River coal plant will convert to a "peaking gas" plant, which means it will only be used when needed.

DTE also plans to invest in 15,400 megawatts of new wind and solar generation by 2042, up from the current 3,000 megawatts. Added to this will be 1,800 megawatts of new battery storage, more than double what DTE has now. The added solar will be from large arrays, not rooftop solar.

The best news in the IRP is that it does not include any new nuclear. DTE said it will keep track of Small Nuclear Modular developments.

The IRP does say our monthly bills will be increased by forty cents per month, and DTE cutoffs to people who cannot pay their bills are the highest rate they have ever been.

A trade group Edison Electric Institute donated at least \$17 million to lawmakers supporting the IRP.

The Michigan Public Service Commission will hold an IRP public meeting. See page 3.

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

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Algal Blooms Continue to Grow

Instead of fading away as algal blooms usually do this time of year, the Western Lake Erie algal bloom has grown since Oct. 29th, according to an 11/9/22 article by Tom Henry in the Toledo Blade.

"I have not seen a bloom this intense this late in our 20 years of monitoring," said Rick Stumpf, who led algal forecasting for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The bloom is approximately 260 square miles in the lake, from south of Monroe along the coastline to Port Clinton. The growing bloom has scientists puzzled since past blooms usually disappear by late September or early October.

Stumpf explains the bloom has changed from *Microcystis*, to *dolichospermum* (formerly known as *anabaena*), although both are classified as harmful algal blooms (HAB).

Scientists think that along with nutrients to feed on, it is the warmer weather that has allowed the blooms to continue to thrive. We think it is also from thermal pollution – heated water from Fermi 2 and the Monroe Coal Plant's discharges.

The Department of Natural Resources has a plan to stop the blooms – build swamps and wetlands. Fermi needs limits on their heated discharge water.



Fermi 1 is Not Decommissioned

The Enrico Fermi 1 reactor shut down in 1972 and had the sodium fuel removed during active decommissioning but has been in Safe Storage (SAFSTOR) (*or just sitting there*) since 2012.

Since we mistrust DTE, we wonder at statements during the recent inspection, such as, "Issues were identified by the licensee at appropriate thresholds and entered into the Corrective Action Program (CAP)." CAP actions are not available to the public, aka, us.

Reports show that there is standing water in the basement of the Fuel and Repair Building (FARB) but this inspection report "determined that no licensed radioactive material has been released to the environment through previous discharges from the active sumps and standing water in the basement of FARB," stated the report, followed by "The licensee decided to release the water from the hot sump via evaporation..."

Why DTE does not finish Fermi 1's decommissioning is anyone's guess. Stay tuned.

Fermi 2's Latest Inspection Report

The Integrated Inspection Report found non-cited violations, and one reads like the script from the HBO movie Chernobyl.

The first involves the Containment Valve that came loose because of the wrong size bolts that was discussed in the LER (see page 3) and another violation for not reporting that within 60 days.

The Chernobyl-script event happened on February 4, 2022, when operators began Fermi 2's down power for a refueling outage. Two turbine-driven reactor feedwater pumps (RFP) provide flow to the reactor and maintain the reactor water level.

"One of the first evolutions scheduled was to secure one of the RFPs. Despite not performing the just-in-time training (JITT) practice session for this evolution since the licensee scheduled this evolution for the night shift, the day shift crew decided to start the down-power and secure an RFP," stated the report, which went on to say that the crew that practiced the JITT were told to lower power to 50 percent before securing an RFP, the day shift started at 58 percent power and then things went awry.

The crew forced a shutdown and "On the following shift the plant continued into the refueling outage."

And the report also referred to the June 24, 2022, reactor scram caused by the Mayflies.

Wetlands Prevent Flooding

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) commissioned a recent study showing that the algal blooms are hurting economics and recreation in Monroe County and Saginaw Bay.

Done by Michigan State University, the report states that up to \$5.9 million annually is being lost in Lake Erie's Western Basin. For example, the study estimates between 9,000 and 21,000 angling trips were canceled in 2019 due to the algal blooms. That estimate equals 29% of the total fishing trips on Lake Erie. The inability to eat the fish was also listed as a reason.

The study showed the importance of wetlands in preventing algal blooms because they intercept agricultural run-off and flood water with evidence showing a 30% to 80% reduction in loading of agricultural nutrients.

"An acre of wetland only a foot deep can store up to 1.5 million gallons of floodwater, said Erin Ford of Audubon Great Lakes. "When you restore wetland habitat, bird populations rebound, and you support a myriad of other wildlife species."

More information about the study can be found at www.MUCC.org or at Ducks United www.ducks.org



FYI – In the News!

= DTE Energy executives say tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act will help reduce the cost of planned carbon capture and storage projects and support “future baseload generation.” (*MiBiz*)

= Michigan state and utility officials say they are taking corrective actions at several coal ash storage sites that a recent report shows are contaminating groundwater. (*Michigan Radio*)

= A \$30 million federal grant to restart a southern Ohio plant that produces nuclear fuel brings praise from some and public health concerns from others in the community. (*Scioto Valley Guardian*)

= The owner of a recently closed southwestern Michigan nuclear plant expects to hear by the end of the year whether it will receive federal funding to reactivate the plant. (*Reuters*)

= DOE announced a \$1.1 billion CNC bailout for Diablo Canyon 1 and 2, which were supposed to retire as planned by 2025. This is in addition to a \$1.4 billion bailout California governor Newsom recently rammed through the state legislature.

Isolation Valve Disconnected

A Licensee Event Report came in last month to report on the cause of a June 27, 2022, Forced Outage 22-01 walkdown that “discovered the Main Steam Outboard Drain Isolation Valve motor separated from the valve bonnet yoke arm flange.”

A forced outage is an unplanned outage. The Containment Isolation Valve was declared inoperable, and the cause turned out to be

“improper thread engagement, due to personnel error of installing the incorrect bolts.”

The valve was secured and “is planning to be reworked during the next availability (refueling outage),” stated the document, which also states there are seven additional motor operated valves that may be “in a potential similar condition...”

Public Hearing on DTE’s IRP

The intent of this hearing is to inform the public about DTE Electric’s application requesting MPSC approval of its Integrated Resource Plan. The hearing is open to the public and will be conducted by an Administrative Law Judge as the presiding officer.

This hearing is being held remotely by video/teleconference on Monday, December 12, 2022, from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Any interested person may participate by using the Microsoft Teams Livestream hearing link, or by dialing (248) 509-0316 and entering the conference ID 550 810 363# when prompted.

Persons needing any assistance to participate should contact the Commission’s Executive Secretary at (517) 284-8090 in advance.

Nov. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML22299A197**. Security Baseline Inspection. It states it contains security information and will not be made public.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22299A197>

= License Event Report regarding Containment Isolation Valve Incident on June 27, 2022.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22304A009> See article, page 3.

= **ML22311A531**. Integrated Inspection Report. See article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22311A531>

= **ML2230A281**. Fermi 1 Inspection Report.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22306A281>

= **ML22313A103**. Fermi 2 design Basis Assurance Inspection Report.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22313A103>

= **ML22307A125**. Summary of 10/19/22 teleconference regarding LAR re: strainers. DTE states they will apply for the LAR before 2023.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22307A125>

= **ML22314A049**. Fermi 3 Periodic Report. No changes, but we wonder why DTE cc's four other nuclear companies, along with the government.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22314A049>

= **ML22278B020**. Fermi 2 Evacuation Time Estimate Report.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22278B020>

= **Event No. 56241**. High Pressure Coolant Injection System Inoperable. An unplanned Cooling Fan B was making “a loud metallic noise” and was shut down to find the cause. This is a recurring problem.

MPSC Gives DTE Token Raise

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) announced their approval of a 0.78% rate increase for DTE Electric Co, far less than the 8.8% increase the utility company requested, however many people think they needed a decrease. The small rate increase will still net DTE \$30.6 million.

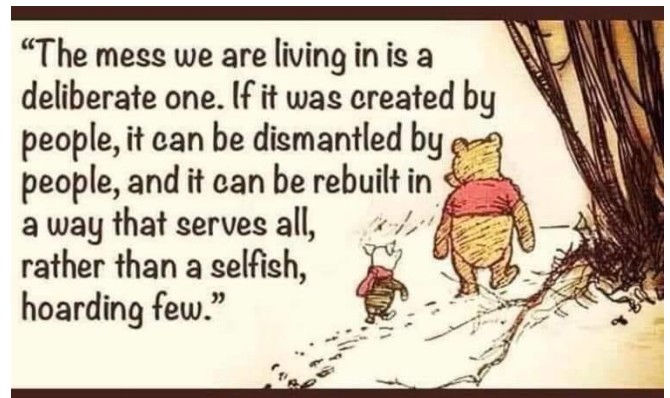
The average increase to residential customers will be about seventy-one cents a month and went into effect on November 25th.

Many thanks go out to the activists who canvassed and encouraged people to tell the MPSC DTE needs a decrease not an increase!

Fermi 2 Gets More New Violations

In addition to the Integrated Inspection Report, a Design Basis Assurance Inspection Report came in last month with two non-cited violations. The first stems from a failure to “ensure the risk from a higher-than-expected short circuit current contribution from the battery chargers to the Direct Current system.” What is disturbing about this is Corrective Action Report Documents (CARD)s were written to correct this in 2017, 2018, two in 2019, and one in 2022. (*The public is not allowed to see the CARDs, but Fermi maintenance is supposed to deal with them at least by the next outage.*)

The second violation was given for “the licensee failed to identify the emergency diesel generators (EDGs) could inadvertently trip during a tornado due to the rapid reduction of pressure in the EDG rooms.” This issue first got a CARD in 2016. “The low pressure created by a tornado would in turn tend to lower the pressure in the crankcase.” Another CARD was issued for this in August.



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