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NPDES Public Hearing

The long-awaited public hearing on the renewal of Fermi 2's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit was interesting, to say the least. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) had six people on the Zoom, all of them permit writers who knew very little about the Fermi 2 reactor, i.e., they didn't know it was shut down for a leak of radioactive water this summer and had no idea how the water was disposed of.

The leak was two gallons per minute, adding up to 2,880 gallons of radioactive water per day. Shouldn't permit writers have heard about this?

Approximately fifty people read public statements and only two of them were pro-Fermi: State Senator Joe Bellino's aide and an administrator of the Wildlife Reserve Both spoke of the amount of money DTE spreads around.

Speaking for Lake Erie included scientists who gave specific information about the growth of algal blooms in the area; the thermal pollution from Fermi's heated discharge; the killing of fish sucked up in the cooling water strainers; the jumpstart of algal blooms in the Fermi discharge area; the damage from uranium mining on Native lands; some sharing personal experiences with living near Fermi; and some spoke from their heart on the morality of killing Lake Erie.

In our official legal filing, CRAFT has insisted upon EGLE setting thermal limits on the heated water Fermi discharges. To our knowledge, only the Dresden nuclear reactor in Illinois has thermal limits, but all reactors need them.

EGLE also issued a renewed NPDES permit for the mythical Fermi 3 reactor and seemed to think poor old Lake Erie can stand the damage of two nuclear reactors using/misusing its water, its flora, and its fauna.

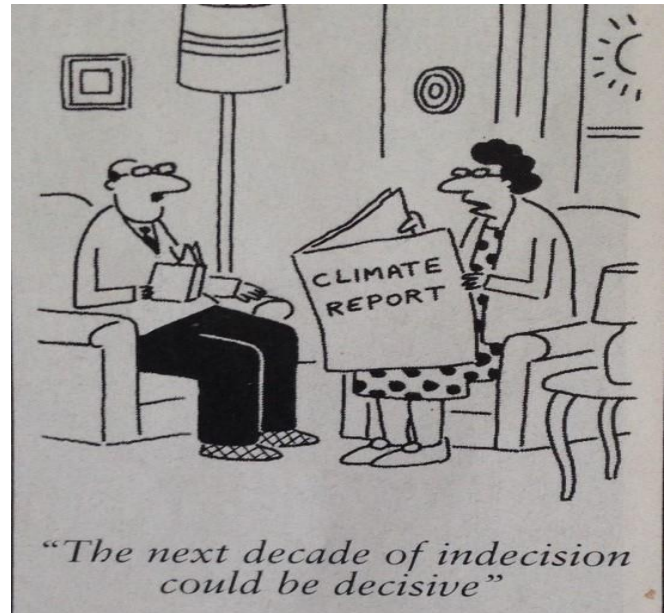
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Price-Anderson Act Renewal

One negative thing about politicians passing laws is that they attach amendments or "riders" to a bill ready to be passed. That is happening soon with the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and CRAFT is one of over 100 organizations who oppose the addition of one such rider, the renewal of the Price-Anderson Act (PAA) for another twenty years.

The PAA was originally passed in 1957 to help the nuclear industry get insurance in case of accidents. It has been renewed once and will expire in 2025 if not renewed. Extending the government's commitment to cover the cost of nuclear accidents should be debated in public hearings, not tacked on to a bill sure to pass.

The NDAA number is H.R.2670. Ask your senators and congresspeople to remove S.1111 from the NDAA's amendment Section 8141 – which also would allow foreign ownership of American reactors and the export of nuclear power technology and materials that could be used in nuclear weapons proliferation.



NRC Gives Fermi Two Violations

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission completed an Integrated Inspection and Fermi and issued two violations. One involved the welding of an anchor bolt “to an existing damaged piece” of the anchor bolt was so degraded on the Mechanical Draft Cooling Tower fan D pedestal that the vibrations caused the fan to shut down.

“MDCT fan ‘D’ is anchored to its concrete pedestal via three mounting anchor bolts.” During a walkdown, DTE noticed the front bolt was sheared off and not connected to the pedestal so they welded another one without evaluating how the difference in metals would react.

The second violation “was self-revealed when all four MDCT fans were declared inoperable due to the licensee’s failure to verify or check the adequacy of the design of new speed switches...”

Other “open” items the NRC inspectors listed were “Increasing Differential Pressures on the Division 1 Emergency Equipment Service Water and Heat Exchangers;” “Inoperable Mechanical Draft Cooling Towers Following modification to Brake Control Circuit;” and issues with MDCT fan D is still an Open item.

NRC Fines Holtec, Inc.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission fined Holtec, the number one nuclear decommissioning corporation, \$43,750 for shipping nuclear materials improperly. They also issued Holtec personnel a violation for waiting a day to tell the NRC about it.

“We expect nuclear plant personnel to be diligent and ensure no shipments are leaving their facilities that could in any way adversely affect the public,” stated the NRC spokesperson.

The shipment was from Oyster Creek to Indian Point, both reactors in New York. Holtec owns Palisades and Big Rock, two closed reactors.

Fermi 3’s NPDES Permit

Michigan’s EGLE renewed the NPDES permit for Fermi 3! The new permit takes effect on November 1, 2023, and expires October 1, 2028; the same as the Fermi 2 permit.

The permit is very much like the Fermi 2 permit. I believe building Fermi 3 is the push for the legislators examining “new nuclear” in Michigan. Others think DTE is just keeping their options open. Here is the permit.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23311A348>

CRAFT’s NPDES Learn-In

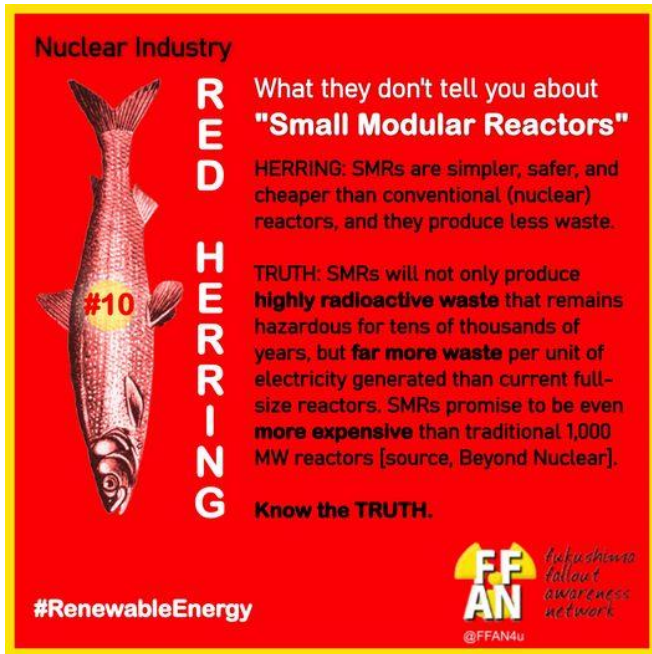
The nuclear industry and the propaganda it promotes (from its beginning with “nuclear power will be too cheap to meter” to present day “it’s clean energy”) is spreading enough money around to convince people that Michigan needs more nuclear power. There are so many other issues to be concerned about that the public accepts or ignores the very complicated nuclear issues.

Because the Fermi 2 reactor is damaging Lake Erie and the industry’s lackeys are allowing it, CRAFT obtained the public hearing on the renewal of Fermi 2’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit with the help of environmental law students and their instructors.

A week before the hearing, we held a Zoom “Learn-In” for people who want to know more about nuclear power and those that want to help save Lake Erie.

Bridget Vial of the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition did a slide show workshop on how people should write and send in comments. We were to be given 3 – 5 minutes to speak. Leona Morgan gave an example of mining.

Many thanks to all who Zoomed in.



The SMR Hype Bites the Dust

The Portland OR-based NuScale Power Corp and Utah Associated Municipal Power System (UAMPS) announced the termination of their agreement to license, build, and operate six Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) on government land at DOE’s Idaho National Laboratory.

This decision comes after they spent \$1.4 billion from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the offer of more money from the Inflation Reduction Act.

The DOE first announced the funding in 2013 – DOE’s spending on SMRs is over \$3 billion so far – but it is not their first failure. A Babcock & Wilcox “mPower” design received the agency’s first SMR funding in 2012 and collapsed in 2017.

Part of their trouble was a report done by Iceberg Research that alleged NuScale invented a “fake customer.” The report also pointed out that NuScale former CEO is selling all his stock.

Whitmer Signs Energy Bills

Governor Gretchen Witmer signed into law several clean energy bills aiming to make the state carbon neutral by 2050. Here are the main bills.

Senate bill 271. Requires Michigan to get 100 percent of its electricity from clean sources by

2040. The definition of “clean” includes nuclear, and natural gas.

Senate Bill 273 requires utilities to reduce waste and encourage ratepayers to switch from gas.

Senate Bill 502 increases funding for the state’s utility consumer advocate and tells the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to consider Environmental Justice communities.

Senate Bill 519 creates an office to help retrain displaced energy and automotive workers.

House Bill 5120 gives the MPSC authority to take the authority away from local governments and approve solar, wind, and battery projects.

FYI – Climate Crisis News

= The owner of a shuttered Michigan nuclear plant [seeks guidance from federal regulators](#) on how to proceed with permits to build a small reactor on the site. (*Michigan Radio*)

= Detroit-based DTE Energy reaches an agreement with environmental groups that will [speed up energy efficiency investments](#) in low-income neighborhoods. (*Michigan Advance*)
 = = DTE to double spending on energy efficiency in low-income areas. *Jena Brooker, BridgeDetroit*
 Under a new settlement agreement, DTE will take stronger steps to address energy waste in energy-burdened communities like Detroit.

= A [train derailment](#) in Romulus marked the third such incident in the city in two years. Fourteen cars of a 97-car train derailed, with three carrying non-hazardous liquid materials and one marked for hazardous material, however, no leaks or injuries have been reported. (*Detroit News*)

= Elected officials and local advocates in southwestern Detroit call for a [federal Green New Deal](#) that would increase spending to mitigate disproportionate pollution in environmental justice neighborhoods. (*Detroit News*)

= Sweeping clean energy bills headed to Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer [made concessions](#) to large utilities and heavy industry at the expense of environmental justice communities, activists say. (*Inside Climate News*)

= Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is [poised to sign legislation](#) that moves permitting for commercial wind, solar and battery storage

projects from local governments to state regulators in an effort to speed up development. (*Bridge*)
= Michigan opens enrollment in a [statewide climate corps program](#) that will bring climate action planning expertise to local communities. (*MLive*)



"Before we discuss raising taxes on the poor & middle class, adding \$1 trillion to the deficit, taking health insurance away from 13 million, raising premiums by 10%, defending treason and swearing in a pedophile, let's begin with a prayer."

Nov. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML23304A085**. Fermi 2 ISFSI Fund Follow-up.
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23304A085>
= **ML23304A155**. Integrated Inspection Report
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23304A155>
= **ML23311A348**. Fermi 3's renewed NPDES.
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23311A348>

ATHF3 Annual Meeting

The Alliance to Halt Fermi 3 will host its annual meeting on Sunday, December 3rd at the U of M Dearborn Campus in the Environmental Interpretive Center, 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn MI 48128 from 2-4:30 pm.

The Keynote speaker will be Gordon Edwards of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility whose topic will be "Small Modular Reactors: Spending Money Recklessly."

Music will be provided by Julie Beutel and Bob O'Brien. For additional information, email keith.gunter9@gmail.com or call (734)838-8084.



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